





THE *12614. C/15*
HISTORY
OF
LUCY WELLERS.

Written by a LADY.

VOL. II.



LONDON:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the Rose in
Pater-noster-Row.

MDCCLIV.



Barbara Herbert

(1)

1754

THE HISTORY

OF
LUCY WELLERS.

BOOK III.

CHAP. I.

Contains an account of an interview between the squire, the baronet, and Miss Wellers.

WHEN Mrs. Goodall was left alone, she began to reflect on what Sir Harry had said; which, joined to the great opinion she had of his good sense and honour, served to remove

Vol. II.

B

all

all suspicion in her, that he was any way concern'd in the plot with Valiere. And she now began to think, as Sir Harry seem'd so desirous of vindicating his honour to Miss Wellers, she ought to procure him an interview with that young lady: little imagining that he secretly rejoiced at her absence, and dreaded nothing more than a meeting with her, accompany'd by his aunt. Yet this was in fact the case. But his good natur'd aunt, desirous her ward should be as fully convinced of his innocence as herself, determined to give him an opportunity of making his own defence.

In consequence of this determination, as soon as she rose in the morning, she sent a billet to Miss Wellers, insisting on her return by dinner: but made no mention of this message to Sir Harry, who was in no small surprise, to see Jack Shooter flourishing his whip, and driving Miss Wellers in a chaise, full speed up the avenue.

LUCY WELLERS.

3

No sooner had the squire conducted the lady into the parlour, than he told her he expected to be paid his fare.

She answer'd, laughing, ' Indeed, Mr. Shooter, it was not fair in you, not to acquaint me with your expectations before you set out; but, as I made no bargain with you, I positively will not pay you any thing.'

' You won't!' reply'd Jack, ' why then I'll take it.' And without any ceremony gave her a smack that might have been heard three rooms off.

Sir Harry look'd very grave. ' You are a happy man, Mr. Shooter,' said he, ' I dared not to have taken such a liberty for the world.'

' Why so?' answer'd the squire, ' Miss Lucy is too good humour'd to take offence at a civil salute. ' Sheart! there's nothing in't! I love to be free, and do

4 The HISTORY of

‘ nothing I need be ashamed on ; mayhap,
‘ Sir Harry, you only kiss in a corner.’

The freedom with which Miss Wellers
appear’d to treat the squire, and the little
notice she seem’d to take of Sir Harry,
piqued the pride of the well-bred baronet.

Jack invited him cordially to Topewell
Hall.

Sir Harry reply’d, ‘ I am sorry time
‘ will not permit me to do myself that
‘ honour now ; but I hope, Mr. Shooter,
‘ if ever your affairs should call you into
‘ my neighbourhood, you will favour me
‘ with a visit.’

Sir Harry, I give you many thanks,
answered the squire ; ‘ but if so be I do
‘ come, I shall come on purpose, I can
‘ tell you : for I have had an inkling to
‘ see your studd a long time. And since
‘ you are so kind as to ask me, I purpose
‘ to crack a bottle with you, one of these
‘ days, in your *own country*. But I won’t
‘ come till your fine folks are gone.’

‘ Why

‘ Why not ? ’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ Because,’ answer’d Jack, ‘ I could
‘ perceive Sir Andrew did not above half
‘ like me, when he was here. I must
‘ needs say, I was a little unhandy, when
‘ I spilt the claret upon his *wrought* ruffles ;
‘ but I meant no offence. Then, again,
‘ when we were all jovial among the men,
‘ I thought no hurt, but out of fun clap’d
‘ my hat on his head : I did, indeed,
‘ part the foretop from the false hair, but
‘ I could not help that, you know ; and
‘ begged his pardon, and would have
‘ put it to rights : but when I come
‘ near him, he desired I would stand far-
‘ ther off, for the smell of my tobacco
‘ would make him *fwound*. Now I had
‘ smoaked but two pipes that day, and
‘ that was at the Crown, afore I came here.
‘ And for the matter of that, I was as
‘ much like to *fwound* as he, for he stunk
‘ so of perfumes, that I did not get the
‘ scent out of my nose all night.’

Jack then began to talk of the attack the ladies had met with, and was not a little proud of informing Sir Harry, of the part he had acted in their rescue; a circumstance which tended to encrease the dislike the baronet had taken to the honest squire. He concluded with saying, 'Well! I shall soon be of the Quorum, and I'll endeavour to rid the country of such vermin.' Then turning to Sir Harry, 'I am sorry, Sir, I can't tarry with you; you must needs have but a dull time on't with two women. But if you'll come to the Crown about seven o'clock, you may spend a few hours with some of the honestest fellows in the world.'

Sir Harry was again sorry he could not do himself the honour of waiting on him; and Jack made his exit, singing Bumper Squire Jones.

When he was out of hearing, 'What a happy, insensible being is that!' said the baronet. 'I would give half my estate to enjoy life as he does.'

‘ I am concern’d to hear you say so,
‘ Sir Harry,’ reply’d Mrs. Goodall, ‘ for
‘ I am sure your endowments both from
‘ fortune and nature, much exceed his;
‘ add to these, the acquisitions you have
‘ made to the latter, by a liberal and po-
‘ lite education; that I fear nothing but
‘ the consciousness of making an improper
‘ use of those blessings, can occasion such
‘ an exclamation. For though a man
‘ of Mr. Shooter’s uncultivated under-
‘ standing, ought not to be esteem’d an
‘ object of derision, as he never deviates
‘ from the paths of honesty and veraci-
‘ ty; yet I can by no means allow him
‘ to be one capable of raising envy in a
‘ person whose ideas are more refined, and
‘ who has a capacity for striking out of
‘ them variety of amusements unknown
‘ to the other.’

‘ Madam,’ answer’d the baronet, with
a low bow, ‘ you are perfectly in the right.
‘ What may be stiled merely a negative
‘ happiness, does not deserve to be envy’d.

8 The HISTORY of

‘ But I am not at leisure to pursue the
 ‘ subject at present, as I think Dr. Wright
 ‘ may expect a visit from me.’

Mrs. Goodall thought this very odd in Sir Harry, as he seemed so impatient, the night before, of clearing himself to Miss Wellers. Finding he was not only silent upon that head, but appear’d, by his motion of going to the Parsonage, desirous of evading it, she determined to introduce the topic, and accordingly said, ‘ I sent
 ‘ for Miss Wellers, Sir Harry, on purpose to oblige you with the opportunity
 ‘ you desired, of vindicating yourself to
 ‘ her; and I insist upon that affair’s being
 ‘ adjusted, before you visit Dr. Wright.’

Then addressing Miss Wellers, ‘ You
 ‘ told me, my dear, that Sir Harry had
 ‘ given you some cause of offence. I
 ‘ beg you would now tell him what you
 ‘ have taken amiss in his conduct to you.’

The young lady, with a blush, reply’d,
 ‘ Sir Harry is but too well acquainted,
 ‘ madam, with the cause.’

Upon

Upon which, Sir Harry said, ‘ I am quite concern’d, Miss Wellers, that you should continue to construe my raillery into an intent of affronting you.’

She reply’d, ‘ I am not so ignorant, Sir Harry, as to construe your behaviour that day the ladies visited Mrs. Allgrave into raillery: I am not to learn the difference between downright rudeness, and what is termed raillery. But, if you think I am, this lady shall judge,’ turning to Mrs. Goodall; to whom she related all that passed in the dressing-room on that day, and complained of his treatment of her.

Mrs. Goodall rose from her chair, and travers’d the room in a great disorder, lifting up her eyes and hands.

Sir Harry, observing the emotion she was in, did not offer to speak a syllable till she was seated again. He then confess’d he held such a conversation with

Miss Wellers, but with no other view than to sound her inclinations; and as to the liberties she complained of, he did not know how extraordinary they might appear to a prude, but he had presumed to none that had not been granted him by women of strict virtue, and of great fashion; and appeal'd to Mrs. Goodall, if Miss Wellers showed any displeasure at the unbred freedom Shooter took with her before them.

His aunt reply'd, there was a vast difference between an open and harmless liberty, and a private designing behaviour. And added, ' I have heard enough, Sir Harry, to give me a much lower opinion both of your sense and morals, than ever I thought I should have had.'

Miss Wellers leaving the room, Sir Harry began to apologize to his aunt for the freedom of his behaviour to that young lady. He said, ' he hoped she would be so good as to impute it rather to the warmth of youth, and the fashion of the age,

' age, (which made gallantry so essential in
 ' the character of a fine gentleman, that
 ' hardly any other topic was admitted in
 ' the most polite company) than to a faulty
 ' disposition of heart. That he was so ac-
 ' custom'd to entertain ladies with such dis-
 ' course, that Miss Wellers might have
 ' thought it ill breeding in him to have
 ' fallen upon any other subject, when so
 ' fair an opportunity offer'd. However,
 ' as by his aunt, and the young lady's re-
 ' sentment, he was convinced he had been
 ' guilty of an error, he should for the fu-
 ' ture endeavour to rectify it; and hoped
 ' to regain the esteem he had forfeited,
 ' by adhering too much to a fashionable
 ' foible.'

Mrs. Goodall assured him, it was with
 great compunction, she found herself ob-
 liged to recede from the favourable opini-
 on she had till then entertained of him:
 and she hoped, for the future, no example
 drawn from the beau monde would induce
 him to swerve from virtue and honour.
 She recommended to his perusal, Nestor

Ironside's admonitions to Sir Harry Lizard.

The baronet reply'd, with many profound bows, ' Madam, you are perfectly ' in the right. But I must beg leave to ' wait upon the Doctor.' And without staying for her answer, he took his hat and moved off, having been previously inform'd by his servant, that neither the Doctor, or Mrs. Wright, were at home.

C H A P. II.

Contains something which the reader is desired to recommend to Master Arne.

WHEN Sir Harry arrived at the Parsonage, he enquired for the Doctor and his lady. Being a second time inform'd they were out, he asked if Miss Burton was at home; the servant answering in the affirmative, he went in, and passed above an hour with her, discoursing on the accomplishments of Miss Wellers, and professing himself an admirer of that lady's; but said, he feared he should meet with great opposition, not only from Mrs. Goodall, but from the lady herself, who appear'd to have no inclination to favour his pretensions; and intreated Miss Burton to favour him with her opinion of the sentiments of her fair friend, in regard to him, as he did not doubt but she had divulged them to her.

His protestations of a sincere disinterested affection for Miss Wellers, appear'd
so

so artless, and he seemed under so unfeigned a concern, lest he should meet with a repulse whenever he revealed his passion, that Miss Burton, who was intirely ignorant of the baronet's late behaviour, thought it would be no breach of trust to endeavour to dispel his fears.

She, therefore, acknowledged, that she had often heard Miss Wellers applaud his sense and conversation, and likewise commend his person and address; and thought, upon the whole, he need not be so apprehensive of a refusal, especially as she was very certain the lady's heart was disengaged. And in her opinion, no one stood a fairer chance for engaging it, than Sir Harry Willmore.

This the baronet's vanity had often suggested to him, but he wanted to draw the confession from her friend; and likewise to sift out, whether Miss Wellers had let her into the secret of his late conduct.

Having gained this point, he begg'd Miss Burton would not reveal this conversation

fation to any one, lest it should reach Mrs. Goodall's ears, who had expressed a dislike of his matching with any lady, but one whom she had proposed to him, and for whom he had not the least inclination.

After giving her this caution, he return'd to the hall, just as the ladies were about to sit down to supper. Dr. Wright coming home soon after Sir Harry left his house, and hearing the baronet had been to visit him, came to Mrs. Goodall's to wait upon him.

The Doctor's company was extremely acceptable to Sir Harry at this juncture, as it prevented Mrs. Goodall from resuming a theme so disagreeable to him as her admonitions. The Doctor staid till it was time for the family to retire.

In the morning, Sir Harry took a ceremonious farewell of his aunt and Miss Wellers, and set out for his own seat, not a little disgusted with Miss Wellers's behaviour; for he never suspected, after the
hint

hint he had given her, she would have had the courage to have accused him to her guardian before his face. Yet her conduct on this occasion served to augment rather than diminish his passion. He could not help secretly applauding it, though he wished it had been more favourable to his pretensions, which he was resolved not to quit; and the hopes of succeeding in his future schemes, was the only motive that could have induced him to bear Mrs. Goodall's reproaches with calmness.

Not many days after the baronet's return, Mrs. Goodall received a letter from Mr. Godfrey, informing her of his design to pass a few days with her, if she was not engaged. In this he enclosed a billet to Miss Wellers, with the following stanzas, and begg'd her to get them set to music, and her harpsichord tun'd, against his arrival.

S O N G.

SONG.

YOUNG Dorilas, an artless swain,
And Daphne, pride of northern plain,
Their flocks together drove ;
Gay youth sat blooming on his face,
She no less shone with every grace,
Yet neither thought of love.

With equal joy each morn they meet,
At mid-day seek the same retreat,
And shelter in one grove ;
At ev'ning haunt the self-same walk,
Together innocently talk,
But not a word of love.

Hence mutual friendship firmly grew,
Till heart to heart spontaneous flew,
Like bill to bill of dove.
Both feel the flame, which both conceal,
Both wish the other wou'd reveal,
But neither speaks of love.

She hung with rapture o'er his sense,
He doated on her innocence,

Thus

Thus each did each approve :

Each vow'd, whilst each the vow observ'd,

The maid was true, the swain ne'er swerv'd,

Then every word was LOVE.

Miss Wellers was humming these words over, trying them to several tunes, when Jack Shooter came in. She was so intent, that he spoke to her many times before he could gain a reply to his enquiries after her health. At last, having made her sensible of his approach, by a slap on the shoulder that made her start, 'I beg pardon, Mr. Shooter,' said she, 'I hope you'll excuse me, but I was endeavouring at a tune for a new song, and did not perceive you.'

'Tan't the life of a squire, is it?' said Jack, 'because if it be, I can sing it. It goes to the tune of the life of a belle.'

'I never heard of that song,' answer'd Miss Wellers, 'and should be obliged to you if you would let me hear it, or favour me with the words.'

'Nay,

‘Nay, there an’t much in them,’ reply’d Jack, ‘as you must needs think; for ’twas made by a young gentlewoman on my neighbour squire Chase, as they tell me. I should never have seen it, if our curate had not happen’d on’t in my kitchen, when the cook was going to stick it upon a goose; he laid hold on’t and writ it out.’

‘I beg I may hear it,’ said the lady. Upon which Jack, having called for a bumper of old hock to clear his pipes, roared out these words.

S O N G.

I.

WHAT life is so happy as that of
a squire,

Who nothing in this world can find to
admire,

Like a hound that runs swift, and a horse
that won’t tire.

Such, such is the life of a squire.

Such, such is the life of a squire.

In.

II.

In the morning he's rous'd by five, or
before,
With the found of the horn, and fleek
Roan at the door,
When he mounts, and by name calls
all the pack o're.
Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

III.

O'er hedges and ditches he leaps with-
out fear,
For nothing but death will e'er stop his
career,
Tho' often he pays for his sport very
dear.
Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

IV.

If puffey by twelve, shou'd be just hunted
down,
He scampers away to the next country
town,
Quite hungry and dirty, alights at the
crown.
Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

V.

A toast and october, well feason'd with
spice,
The landlord presents him with whol-
some advice
To *swallow that tankard*, now down in
a trice.

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

VI.

With this strong recruit he begins a new
chase,

Whilst the liquor adds colour to his jolly
face,

Who thinks a pale cheek is a mark of
disgrace.

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

VII.

He brings home a few honest fellows to dine
On a buttock of beef, or a large mutton
chine,

With a rasher of bacon to relish their wine.

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

VIII.

When dinner is ended the glass moves
about,

The bowl still replenish'd, which oft he
sees out,

For

For drinking alone will make a man
stout.

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

IX.

The ladies he leaves to quadrille and
their tea,

'Fore such squeamish creatures, what
man can be free?

With a friend at all-fours, he'll better
agree.

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

X.

By this time the parson and papers ap-
pear,

He turns to the vicar, Pray, who have
you there?

Of what college was that same *congé de-
lire*?

Such, such is the life of a squire, &c.

XI.

Declaring all foreigners he wou'd oppose,
By drinking confusion to Great Britain's
foes,

Procures to himself a much envy'd repose.

Such, such, is the life of a squire, &c.

When

When Jack ceased, Miss Wellers did not encore, but thank'd him. 'Nay, I 'told you,' said he, 'there was not a deal 'in't, tho' there is a hard word or two 'that I don't rightly understand.

Some company arriving at this instant, the squire moved off.

C H A P. III.

Contains a courtship of an extraordinary kind.

MRS. Goodall return'd an answer to Mr. Godfrey, which assured him his company was always acceptable to her.

This lady often conversed with Miss Wellers on the subject of Sir Harry's behaviour, and greatly commended her conduct. They were interrupted one day, when they were upon this theme, by the arrival of Mr. Godfrey. He inform'd Miss Wellers, of a visit he had made to Mr. Willit, and that he was so unfortunate as not to meet with the young gentleman, who was gone, as his father inform'd Mr. Godfrey, to pass some time with a relation that lived at the distance of an hundred and fifty miles; but that he expected him home in about a month: at which time Mr. Godfrey said he would take another journey to see him. But being apprehensive Miss
Burton

Burton would think him negligent in the affair, he was come to know, if she would permit him to write to her lover in the mean while.

Miss Burton being inform'd of this offer, thank'd him for his obliging intentions; but said, she rather chose he should make no mention of her to Mr. Willit, till he had an opportunity of seeing him.

Miss Shooter, about this time, was married to an apothecary in the neighbourhood, and the squire came to invite Mrs. Goodall, Miss Wellers, and the *Londoner*, (as he call'd Mr. Godfrey) to a dance at Topewell Hall, on that occasion. The Doctor, Mrs. Wright, and their niece, had the like invitation: which they all accepted.

Mr. Godfrey danced with the bride, Miss Wellers with the bridegroom, and Miss Burton fell to the lot of honest Jack; whose spirits were so exhilarated, that he began to talk to his partner on a subject

the little expected. In short, the squire was about to lose his house-keeper; and thought his family required such an inspector. Having a very high opinion of the Doctor, and Mrs. Wright, and perceiving something in the person of Miss Burton that struck his fancy, he fix'd upon her, in his mind, as a proper person to supply his sister's place. All the evening he was particularly complaisant to her, in his way, drank to her every time he called for wine, and nodded at her whenever the word *sweet-heart* was mention'd.

Some of the company observing to him, that he would miss his house-keeper; he reply'd, 'I am glad Deb is disposed on to her mind. And for matter of a house-keeper, I have one in my eye.' Tipping the wink on Miss Burton.

The day after this ball, Jack made his appearance at Mrs. Goodall's, in a new fustian frock, a plaid-waistcoat edged with silver, a pair of clean buckskin-breeches, a cut bob-wig, and his silver spurs as bright as

as a mirror. He enter'd with an unusual gravity in his countenance, and demanded of the ladies, how they rested? and hoped they caught no cold.

Having received an answer to this question, he turned to Mr. Godfrey, whom he had taken a liking to, from the time he first saw him, as he said, he look'd like an honest man in the face, and not like the finical beaux of London; and desired him to take a turn in the garden with him, *having a word to say to him.*

Upon which Mr. Godfrey, at Mrs. Goodall's desire, conducted him into the library, and shutting the door, waited some time for the squire's opening the cause. Who, after he had taken two or three strides about the room, with the handle of his whip apply'd to his nose, and put on one of his most significant looks, began: ' Mr. Godfrey, I have, thank
' heaven, a pretty estate of six hundred
' pounds a year; and 'tis clear of all mort-
' gages, and cumber'd with no jointures:

‘ so, I think ’twou’d vex a man to have
‘ no heir to such a well-condition’d thing.
‘ And as my sister is match’d to her mind,
‘ I see no reason why I should not do the
‘ same. What do you think, Sir?’

Mr. Godfrey reply’d, ‘ You cannot do
‘ better, Mr. Shooter, than repair the loss
‘ of such an agreeable companion, as soon
‘ as possible.’

‘ Nay,’ answer’d the squire, ‘ for mat-
‘ ter of a companion, I can have company
‘ enough: but I shall want somebody to
‘ look after my servants, and to have an
‘ heir, as I said afore. Therefore, I have
‘ a kind of a mind to go a courting to
‘ Miss Nanny Burton; I know she has no
‘ portion, but what her uncle may leave
‘ her; and though he has the best livings
‘ in this country, he gives away so much,
‘ that I don’t think he can lay up a deal.
‘ And then she has a brother too.—But
‘ for that matter, I need not stand upon
‘ money, since I have enough for us both.
‘ Now, Sir, I want to know, if you think
‘ Miss

LUCY WELLERS. 29

‘ Miss Nanny would not make me a good
‘ wife ?’

Mr. Godfrey answer’d, ‘ I have a very
‘ high opinion of Miss Burton’s merit;
‘ and if she has no objection to your pro-
‘ posal, I shall think you a very happy
‘ man.’

This reply satisfied Jack, who never en-
tertain’d a thought of being refused. And
he went in high spirits to the Parsonage.

Mr. Godfrey return’d laughing to the
ladies, who were not a little diverted at
the manner in which the honest squire had
declared his intentions. Mrs. Goodall,
however, observ’d it would be a very good
match for Miss Burton, and hoped she
would be so prudent as to accept it.

As soon as Mr. Shooter arrived at the
Parsonage, he desired to have a little *talk*
with the Doctor, in private; to whom he
made much the same declaration he had
done to Mr. Godfrey.

The Doctor seem'd very well pleased with his offer; and said, he would acquaint his niece with it, who he believed would not disapprove of it. But the squire's impatience would not suffer him to wait till the Doctor had first mention'd the affair to her: and he desired he might tell her a *bit* of his mind himself.

Accordingly, Miss Burton was desired to walk in. Her uncle soon found a pretence for leaving her alone with her lover. He sat silent some minutes, then open'd his lips to complain of the heat, saying, he was all in a sweat.

Having made this essay, he paused again, till Miss Burton began to enquire after his sister; and said she was sorry he was so soon to be deprived of her company.

'Ay, that's true,' answered Jack, 'I shall miss her, that I must needs say. But I hope I shall not be long alone.'

Then

LUCY WELLERS. 31

Then drawing his chair nearer her, he told her his errand ; said he had had a fancy for her a long time ; and that he would make her as good a jointure as his estate would afford.

Miss Burton was so amazed at this proposition, that she could not immediately make a reply. The squire observing to her, that silence gave consent, made an offer towards a salute, which she did not seem much to approve, and answer'd as soon as she could recollect herself : ‘ I am
‘ obliged to you, Mr. Shooter, for your
‘ good opinion ; but I cannot hearken to
‘ a proposal of this nature. Tho’ I as-
‘ sure you, at the same time, I have no
‘ objection to your character, person, or
‘ fortune. But——

Here Jack interrupted her : ‘ Why
‘ what’s the matter then, Miss Nancy ?’

She reply’d, ‘ I would by no means
‘ give you any trouble in attending on this
‘ affair. And therefore, think it but right

‘ to speak my sentiments at once. I should
‘ do you an injury, Sir, to accept the offer
‘ you do me the honour to make, unless
‘ I could present you with my heart, as
‘ well as hand : the former is not intirely at
‘ liberty for me to bestow, and the other
‘ you would not desire without it. I deal
‘ thus frankly with you, Mr. Shooter,
‘ that you may save yourself all farther
‘ trouble on this head. I believe you have
‘ too much generosity to do me a preju-
‘ dice ; and if you should continue to ad-
‘ dress me, my uncle and aunt would un-
‘ doubtedly approve of your pretensions ;
‘ and I should be drove to the necessity of
‘ disobliging them, or of rendering you
‘ and myself unhappy for life. I hope,
‘ therefore, you will desist from so fruit-
‘ less a pursuit. And I do not question
‘ but you will succeed, if you make your
‘ application to some woman of superior
‘ merit and fortune.’

The squire look’d very grave, and
scratching his head, answer’d, ‘ I am sorry
‘ to find how matters are ; but since you
‘ desire

‘ desire it, I won’t stand in your light,
 ‘ though mayhap you do yourself.’

He then endeavour’d to appear unconcern’d, but was too sensible of his disappointment; and, being entirely devoid of artifice, could not conceal his chagrin from the Doctor, who met him just as he was going out of the house, and read it in his countenance: he was very desirous of detaining him to supper; but Jack answer’d, he was obliged to be at home. And, without uttering another word, mounted his horse, and rode off.

The Doctor, and Mrs. Wright, plainly perceived he had not met with a reception suitable to their wishes. And both went into the parlour to Miss Burton, and told her they guessed the motive which induced Mr. Shooter to visit her that day. Then, having expressed their approbation of his proposals, they said, they thought he deserved a preference to a lover who had abandon’d her in a dishonourable manner.

She, in the most respectful terms, inform'd them of the reason she gave Mr. Shooter for rejecting his addresses; and declared it was not in his power to make her happy.

Upon which a warm altercation ensued, that brought her to tears, and obliged her indulgent friends to desist from their persuasions. And they only lamented to each other, that her affection for an ungrateful lover, shou'd prepossess her against so advantageous a proposal: for to that cause alone, they imputed her refusal. But, though that might be one motive, it is certain, had there been no Mr. Willit in being, she would not have thought Mr. Shooter a suitable companion for her, and she could not have consented to lead her life with a person of a disposition so contrary to her own. She acknowledged, he was an honest worthy man; but said, she chose to remain single rather than be bound to a person with whom there could be no union of minds: rightly concluding *that*, the only solid basis of conjugal happiness.

C H A P. IV.

Contains letters, not in the stile of Pliny.

MR. Godfrey return'd Mr. Shooter's visit the next day ; and finding him alone, took the liberty of asking, how he succeeded with Miss Burton ?

Jack reply'd, ' I doubt I went the day after the fair ; for I guess by what she said, she has got another sweet-heart : so my cake's dough.'

' Very probable,' said Mr. Godfrey, ' but I suppose you will not take the first refusal.'

' Why—yes, I believe I must be fain to give her over; for she told me I should cause her uneasiness, if I went again upon that account. So, I think, mayhap it may be a good riddance ; for if she has

‘ set her mind on another man, she would
‘ never have fancied me, you know. I
‘ must needs say, I am a little vex’d it
‘ should happen so; for I liked her well
‘ enough.’

Mr. Godfrey answer’d, ‘ I commend
‘ your generosity, in the resolution you have
‘ made to desist, rather than give the lady
‘ concern. No doubt her heart is disposed
‘ of, and she acted very honourably in not
‘ keeping you in suspense. I would ad-
‘ vise you to think no more of her; but
‘ look out for some other agreeable lady,
‘ whose heart is free.

‘ Nay, for matter of that,’ said the squire,
‘ there’s enough would have me, I believe,
‘ and thank me too; but I am somewhat
‘ dainty in such matters: so I’ll tarry a
‘ while; mayhap she may change her
‘ mind.’

After a little more conversation with Mr.
Shooter, Mr. Godfrey bid him adieu.
And on his return to Mrs. Goodall’s, called
at

at Dr. Wright's, where he had some discourse with Miss Burton, and received her full instructions, in relation to the visit he intented Mr. Willit. And the next morning set out for town.

He had been gone but a few days, when Miss Wellers received this letter from him.

‘ To Miss Wellers.

‘ Madam,

‘ **C**ALLING at an inn upon the
 ‘ road, in my return from a family
 ‘ I always leave with extreme regret ; I
 ‘ observed two waiters very intent on per-
 ‘ rusing the inclosed. Curiosity led me to
 ‘ enquire what they were reading ; upon
 ‘ which one of them deliver’d a paper into
 ‘ my hand, without a superscription, and
 ‘ anonymous ; and told me he found it on
 ‘ clearing a room in which some fine gen-
 ‘ tlemen had dined that day. The con-
 ‘ tents, I will own, affected me strongly ;
 ‘ and though I hope my conjectures are
 ‘ ground-

' groundless, I could not resist the desire
 ' I have of communicating it to you. If
 ' it does not concern, it may possibly
 ' amuse you, and prove that any inci-
 ' dent that bears even the most distant
 ' shadow of prejudice to you, is sufficient
 ' to destroy the repose of,

' Madam, your most devoted,

' and obedient

' humble servant,

' CHARLES GODFREY.'

' P. S. The disorder of my mind, at
 ' this instant, has render'd me neglectful
 ' of Mrs. Goodall; but be assured, both
 ' that lady and yourself, have my sincerest
 ' wishes for every instance of happiness.'

The enclosed contain'd these lines.

' Dear Frank,

' **H**OW could you railly me so un-
 ' mercifully, on the notion that I
 ' would ever quit my darling liberty?
 ' No; tho' I have been oblig'd to surrender
 ' my heart, I will preserve the other va-
 ' luable

‘ luable jewel, spite of all the charms with
‘ which the disturber of my peace is endued.
‘ Tho’ I have reason to suspect her aim is
‘ to deprive me of that ; for I have most au-
‘ thentic information that she secretly likes
‘ my person ; and, entre nous, why should
‘ she not ? since many a sweet creature
‘ has experienc’d it’s influence, and yield-
‘ ed to an address which I believe is not
‘ less agreeable to her. But she is an art-
‘ ful hypocritical forceress, and pretends
‘ an indifference, which upon my soul,
‘ is but affected, meerly to bring me to
‘ her own *honourable* terms, as she would
‘ stile them. But tell me, Frank, is deceit
‘ consistent with honour ? The charming
‘ tyrant would deceive, in order to shackle
‘ me, whilst I have dealt openly with her,
‘ and confess’d I never intended marri-
‘ age ; but made her proposals of the
‘ most extravagant unlimited nature, far
‘ exceeding any I ever made upon such
‘ an occasion. And you know I never
‘ was unsuccessful in attempts of this
‘ sort before. What the d—l is the
‘ meaning of it ! I can’t conceive ; but I
‘ never

never was so confoundedly in love with
a baby face since I was created.—Doubt-
less, resistance whets the appetite :—’tis
certainly that, Frank. For tho’ I doat
on her beauty, to a degree little short
of distraction, I really think it inferior
to Charlotte’s, when she first yielded to
my passion ; and ’tis more than probable
Lucy’s may pall in my eye, as quickly
as that of her predecessors did : which
you have heard me say, grew insipid in
a few months. This I freely confess to
you, Frank ; and at the same time ac-
knowledge the remembrance cannot de-
ter me from cherishing my present flame.
Besides, the noble revenge I have vowed
to take, for her disdainful refusal, deter-
mines me to use all my efforts to get the
proud obstinate charmer into my power.
I told you, in my last, of the confound-
ed mortification I underwent, in my pre-
tended indisposition. The guard I was
forced to keep on my tongue and eyes,
before such penetrating inspectors as the
old woman, the parson, and a young
subtile witch her friend.—I found it was
in

‘ in vain to attempt any thing, whilst she
‘ was surrounded with such a company of
‘ Argus’s.—For let me tell you, Frank,
‘ the old lady has a masculine understand-
‘ ing; and her father confessor is a devilish
‘ sensible fellow, and wou’d soon have
‘ smok’d my design. So I was obliged
‘ to seek to him: and, to confess a truth,
‘ should have been very well entertain’d
‘ with his conversation, if I had not re-
‘ garded him as spy; and had he not some-
‘ times made me compliments, which I
‘ was conscious I did not deserve. He has
‘ more than once roused that troublesome
‘ monitor in my breast, for conscience,
‘ Frank, will be very impertinent on some
‘ occasions: and as it will be tattling to
‘ me even now, and endeavouring to in-
‘ terrupt my favourite design, I’ll discard
‘ it. And now all for love! The scheme
‘ I concerted at my own house was baffled;
‘ that in which my fellow was concern’d
‘ was frustrated, by the interposition of
‘ a booby, who is but one remove from an
‘ idiot; and yet you would envy the brute
‘ for his insensibility. But more of him
‘ when

‘ when we meet ; which I beg may be one
‘ day next week, for I have a scheme in
‘ my head which you must forward. And
‘ sure, Frank, you will not be so inhumane
‘ to refuse your assistance to one who, if
‘ that fails, must inevitably have recourse
‘ to a pistol, or halter ; either of which,
‘ will be as agreeable to me as the noose,
‘ that after all, (I tremble whilst I write
‘ it) may one doleful day, catch,

Yours, &c.

‘ P. S. Let me know what day you
‘ can meet me, at the Lebeck’s Head.
‘ Your old friend F—y M—y is now in
‘ high keeping ; but lately had the mortifi-
‘ cation to be turn’d out of a public as-
‘ sembly.’

Miss Wellers could scarcely go through this epistle, so violently was she agitated, from the moment she had read the name of Lucy ; however, she just ran it over ; then drop’d it out of her hand, and remained motionless in her chair, a livid paleness overspreading her countenance.

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall, amaz'd at this change, called out, ' Bless me! What's the matter?'

The young lady, shedding a flood of tears, was at length able to say, ' Oh, madam, please to read that letter, and you will be convinced my suspicions of Sir Harry Willmore were but too well grounded.'

Her guardian, casting her eyes on the paper, answer'd, ' It is indeed my nephew's hand; but how came it here?'

' Read it, pray madam!' reply'd Miss Wellers, ' and this too, if you please,' delivering Mr. Godfrey's epistle into her hand.

Mrs. Goodall, having perused them both, lifted up her eyes, and said, ' Surely, the world is made up of deceit!'—Then, after a pause, expressed her detestation of Sir Harry's proceedings. And reminded the young lady of the acknowledgments due

due to heaven, that had, in so accidental a manner, warn'd her to avoid, for the future, the sight and conversation of her base designing lover ; assuring her she should resent the affront as warmly as if it had been offer'd to herself. But she thought it would be proper to conceal the information they had received, as the baronet would act with less caution, not suspecting their having had any such ; and consequently they might be better able to render his new scheme abortive.

She was concern'd at Mr. Godfrey's insinuations, as she dreaded the consequence of a quarrel between two warm young fellows. She therefore told Miss Wellers, it was not proper Mr. Godfrey should have any suspicion that the letter he enclosed any way concern'd her or Sir Harry Wilmore ; and she would advise her, to take no notice to him of the receipt of it, 'till he asked her after it.

The prudent conduct of Miss Wellers, so greatly cemented the affection Mrs. Goodall

Goodall had for her, that she loved her with a maternal tenderness.

The day after she had had such a convincing proof of the baronet's treachery, she received a billet from him, informing her that he had chang'd his mind, as to going into Worcestershire; and proposed passing a week with her, in order to consult Dr. Wright's opinion, about an affair of some importance.

This alarm'd her; and she could not immediately determine what to reply. She fear'd, if she communicated Sir Harry's proceedings to Dr. Wright, and advised with him about her own, at this juncture, it would render that worthy gentleman liable to some affront, or injury, from the baronet's resentment, who, it was plain, was capable of perpetrating very violent actions, in the gratification of his revenge, as well as love.

She ponder'd upon this, and came to a resolution to reveal the affair to no one, but
return'd

return'd an answer to Sir Harry; in which she begg'd to be excused from receiving his visit just at that time, for reasons she would acquaint him with when she saw him; that she would inform him, and by a letter, when his visit would be more convenient to her.

She propos'd, by this means, to evade his visit, and gain time to consider how it was proper to act.

C H A P. V.

In which the reader may meet with a surprise, tho' not equal to that of Miss Wellers.

POOOR Miss Wellers had been in continual alarms for near a fortnight, on account of Sir Harry, whose conduct had render'd him an object of dread and detestation to her. But a letter she now received by the post, afforded her reflections of a more agreeable nature. As the reader will imagine, if he pleases to peruse the following epistle.

‘ To Miss Wellers, &c.

‘ Dear Sister, Tower-Hill, Sept. 16.

‘ **L**AST week I had the pleasure to reach my native country, after a tedious absence; and the satisfaction to be inform'd by Mrs. Sterns, of Stamford, that you expressed a desire of hearing from me, on my arrival. I wish I could

‘ could have waited on you in person ;
‘ for believe me, my dear sister ! I long
‘ for an interview with the only relation
‘ I have now in England ; but Mr. Brown’s
‘ affairs oblige him to stay some time in
‘ London. Thank heaven, they are in a
‘ prosperous way ; and I hope our circum-
‘ stances are such, as will enable us to
‘ live in some credit and figure, in any
‘ place we shall chuse to settle in. Since
‘ it so happens, that I cannot at present
‘ wait on you, I hope you will favour me
‘ with your company as soon as possible.
‘ And if the good lady you are with, will
‘ be so kind as to send a careful person
‘ with you, as far as St. Albans, Mr.
‘ Brown, (who sends his love, and joins in
‘ this request) and I, will meet you there,
‘ in a coach, and convey you to our lodg-
‘ ings : from whence you may return to
‘ your friend’s house, when she comes to
‘ town. I have sent a jar of West-India
‘ sweetmeats by the stage-coach, with a
‘ few myrtle candles ; and beg you would
‘ make them, and our compliments, accep-
‘ table to the lady. If you are as impa-
‘ tient

‘ patient for an interview as I am, you will,
‘ by the return of the post, oblige me with
‘ an answer; and appoint the time and inn
‘ where you shall be met by,

Dearest Lucy,

Your most affectionate
brother and sister,

WM. and MARY BROWN.

P. S. ‘ Please to direct to Mr. Brown,
‘ Virginia merchant, at the Virginia
‘ coffee-house.’

This letter was a pleasing surprize to Miss Wellers, who went immediately to her guardian, to communicate the contents.

Mrs. Goodall sincerely congratulated her on her sister’s arrival; and told her, she had too much regard to her happiness, to desire to retard the interview which Mrs. Brown so earnestly solicited. It therefore was agreed, that Miss Burton and Mrs. Martin should attend her, in Mrs. Goodall’s coach to the place where her sister proposed to meet her.

Jack Shooter coming in about an hour after, and being inform'd of the young lady's intended journey, offer'd to escort her on horse-back ; and after some apologies, she accepted his offer.

This being concluded on, Miss Wellers wrote to Mrs. Brown by the next post, and appointed the day and inn in which she should expect to meet her at St. Albans.

Upon the day she had fix'd, the young lady and her friends set out, having taken an affectionate farewell of her good guardian, to whom she promised to write as soon as she got to town.

They arrived at St. Albans just after Mr. and Mrs. Brown. Mutual and affectionate civilities pass'd between the sisters. Mrs. Brown appear'd to have been very handsome, but her beauty seem'd to have received some injury, from the change of climates, and the trouble she had gone through : infomuch that Miss Wellers told

Miss Burton, she had not the least remembrance of the idea she had form'd, from what she remember'd of her when a child.

Mrs. Brown said, her sister was greatly improv'd, but she should have known her in any place. Both that lady and her husband were very complaisant to Miss Wellers's friends.

The squire welcom'd them into *king George's dominions*. But told Mr. Brown, if he would not give him his hand upon't, that Miss Lucy should not go over seas with him, he would not leave her with him. Upon which, he assured Jack, he had no intentions of quitting England any more.

As they had time before supper, Mr. Brown propos'd to carry the ladies to see Duke Humphry, the sight of whose corps caused Miss Wellers and Miss Burton to make many reflections on the cruelty of his fate, and the instability of human grandeur.

The squire seem'd very grave, and said, he did not like the looks of the old man, and should have been sadly scared to have gone to him alone ; adding, ' I warrant ' he was a foaker when he was alive, or ' he would never have desired to be buried in liquor.'

On their return to the inn, they found a genteel entertainment, which Mr. Brown had order'd for them.

Next morning, before they separated, Miss Burton insisted on a promise from Miss Wellers, of writing to her every post: Which having obtained, Mr. Shooter attended her back, and Miss Wellers proceeded on her journey to town, with Mr. and Mrs. Brown. They reach'd their lodgings (which were as handsome as any in that part of the town) by dinner. And much conversation passed between the sisters, whilst Mr. Brown's business called him out.

Miss

Miss Wellers express'd a desire of seeing their children ; and was answer'd, they were so fatigued with their voyage, that their mamma chose to leave them with a friend at Bristol ; but she expected them every day.

Miss Wellers wrote to Mrs. Goodall that night, and delivered her letter to Mr. Brown to put into the post.

The following day, she and her sister dined alone. About tea-time, Mr. Brown appear'd, and told them he expected a very fine gentleman to sup with him ; and desired his wife to provide accordingly. At eight, a thundering rap at the door inform'd them of the arrival of their guest. But, imagine the surprise Miss Wellers was in, when she saw Mr. Brown introduce Sir Harry Wilsmore : she would have left the room upon his entrance, had not Mr. and Mrs. Brown insisted on her staying.

The baronet behaved with decorum : however, he took occasion more than once, to declare his passion for her, before her brother and sister, who seem'd to think he did her great honour.

As soon as he made his exit, Mrs. Brown attended Miss Wellers to her chamber, when the latter expressed great dislike of their visitor, and protested if she had known Mr. Brown had had any acquaintance with Sir Harry Willmore, she would not have come there.

Mrs. Brown talked much in commendation of the baronet ; said, she saw no reason for her dislike ; that, indeed, she believed he had no intentions of marrying her ; but, by encouraging his addresses, and complying with his desires, she would be certain of an ample provision for life ; and for her part, she had no notion of being so squeamish, in the circumstances she was in : that Sir Harry had told Mr. Brown, he wou'd agree to any terms ; and
if

LUCY WELLERS. 45

if more than a thousand pounds a year would purchase her consent, he would with pleasure settle it upon her.

This so exasperated the young lady, that she told Mrs. Brown, if she continued to offend her ears with such discourse, she would renounce all relation to her, and leave her lodgings in the morning.

At which declaration, Mrs. Brown seem'd much concern'd, and answer'd, 'Indeed, sister, I'm sorry to see you so apt to fly into a passion. Sir Harry Wilmore has given me such reasons for his conduct, and made such generous proposals, that my affection for you induced me to approve them, as the acceptance of them would render you entirely independent, enable you to live in splendour, and set you above the censures of the world, which are always levell'd at poverty.'

Miss Wellers declared her detestation of such false notions, in terms becoming a

The HISTORY of
woman of sense and virtue, to which Mrs.
Brown made no reply, but wishing her a
good repose, left her.

C H A P. VI.

Will in some measure clear up Mrs.
Brown's character.

WHEN Miss Wellers found herself
alone, she gave a loose to the
uneasiness with which her mind was over-
charg'd, and vented part of it in tears and
complaints. Then, instead of retiring to
rest, employ'd herself in writing this letter.

To Mrs. Goodall.

' Honour'd and dear Madam,

' I Find but too much reason, in my pre-
' sent situation, to acknowledge the
' wisdom of good Dr. Wright's caution,
' *not to build too much on any pleasing pros-
' pect that this world presents to our imagi-
' nations*; since that which afforded me
' such flattering ideas of passing my time
' agree-

' agreeably with an only sister, has, alas!
 ' within these twelve hours been overcast,
 ' and all the satisfaction I promised myself
 ' in her society, is changed into fears,
 ' that even she would be instrumental to the
 ' greatest misery that can befall me. To
 ' explain this assertion, I must inform you
 ' that Sir Harry Wilsmore has, by some
 ' means or other, made an acquaintance
 ' with Mr. Brown, and this evening supp'd
 ' with us: he, by my sister, renewed the
 ' dishonourable proposals he made me at
 ' his own house. With equal grief and
 ' shame I write it. Mrs. Brown not only
 ' deliver'd his message, but seconded his
 ' shocking solicitations with a warmth
 ' that has convinced me she is entirely in
 ' his interest, and so far lost to honour as
 ' to be very urgent with me to accept his
 ' offers. I have expressed my abhorrence
 ' of such a procedure, in terms suitable to
 ' the grossness of the affront. But yet am
 ' tormented with such dreadful apprehen-
 ' sions, that I cannot rest in this family.
 ' I therefore intreat you, my dear lady, as
 ' my guardian, to exert the power that

‘ title gives you, in removing me, as soon
‘ as possible, from a place which affords
‘ nothing but the most shocking ideas of
‘ loss of virtue, fame, and honour to,

Dear Madam,

Your most afflicted,

but ever affectionate

and dutiful humble servant,

LUCY WELLERS.

P. S. ‘ I am to be found at Mr. D—’s
‘ on Tower-Hill.’

Having finished this letter, she endeavour’d to compose herself; but the disturbing reflections which perpetually arose in her mind, would not permit her to enjoy any repose.

When Mrs. Brown came into her chamber in the morning, she protested she would not stir into the dining-room, unless she was assured Sir Harry Wilsmore was not in the house. Her sister having given her that assurance, she told her, if she would
send

send up a servant to dress her, she would leave her chamber.

Upon which, Mrs. Brown quitted the room, and a servant made her appearance, to whom Miss Wellers gave half a crown and her letter, intreating her to put it safe into the post. The maid pocketed the bribe, and promised to perform her desire.

This gave her a little ease, and she went into the dining-room ; where she saw no person but Mr. Brown and her sister, till about six in the evening Sir Harry Wilmore enter'd, without any previous tap at the door.

She now resolv'd no intreaties should persuade her to stay in his company, and rose with an intent to follow Mrs. Brown, who quitted the room ; but the baronet, aware of her design, placed himself between her and the door, and taking hold of her hand, he turn'd the key, and oblig'd her to sit down, saying, ' Madam, ' I must insist on your hearing what I have ' to say.'

She made him no reply, but by a look, which plainly testified how irksome his conversation was to her. He then began to discourse on the violence of his passion, which, he said, had induced him to use a little artifice, to obtain an opportunity of conversing with her, on a subject which she had cruelly refused to attend to, whilst she was under his aunt's eye. He then renewed the offer he had made by Mrs. Brown, and protested, if the half of his estate could purchase such a return as he solicited from her, he would freely part with it.

She replied in the manner she had done before, and did not recede in the least from her resolutions. ‘ Sir Harry,’ said she, ‘ if you are so far lost to virtue and honour, as to think, by blandishments or threats, to bring me to your purpose, you will find yourself mistaken. For I have frequently implor’d the protection of a friend, who is able to defend me, and baffle every scheme that can be form’d
against

‘ against my innocence. And in him I
‘ put my whole trust and confidence.’

The baronet answer’d, ‘ I can’t con-
‘ ceive who you mean ? for I have taken
‘ care to deceive old Wright effectually.
‘ But if I find any one so presumptuous
‘ as to dispute you with me, he shall feel
‘ the effects of my resentment.’ (clapping
his hand on his sword)

‘ I am amazed, Sir Harry,’ reply’d the
young lady, ‘ you should not guess to
‘ what friend I should apply on such an
‘ occasion as this ; and wish you would
‘ deprecate his wrath, before it is too late ;
‘ for be assured, the master in whose ser-
‘ vice Dr. Wright is enlisted, is capable of
‘ taking ample vengeance on all who act
‘ in opposition to his express commands.’

‘ Oh, madam ! your most humble ser-
‘ vant ;’ return’d Sir Harry, ‘ I perfectly
‘ comprehend your very sententious ex-
‘ pressions. Why, my dear Lucy, you
‘ ought to have been a parson.—Upon
‘ my

‘ my foul ! ne’er a curate in town could
‘ have delivered his sentiments from the
‘ pulpit, with more state and gravity.
‘ But, my dear, you forget the design for
‘ which you were sent into the world :—
‘ preaching was never intended for the
‘ employment of a young beautiful wo-
‘ man. I propose you should make a bet-
‘ ter use of your time. Look’ee, my dear,
‘ you are a girl of sense, or I should not
‘ give myself the trouble of appealing to
‘ your understanding, which must have
‘ frequently suggested to you, the inconve-
‘ niencies attending a state of dependence.
‘ And tho’ you pass your time in a toler-
‘ able manner at present, still you must
‘ be dependent, not only on the bounty,
‘ but even the caprice of an old lady,
‘ who, I believe, has an esteem for you ;
‘ but what will that avail, if she shou’d be
‘ taken off ? for I can assure you, my dear,
‘ my aunt is by no means rich ; and as her
‘ jointure goes into another family at her
‘ death, the most you can expect from her
‘ cannot be above a few hundred pounds.
‘ Of

‘ Of what service will such a scanty pit-
‘ tance be, to a girl of your notions, and
‘ education? I remind you of this, as one
‘ motive to induce you to listen to my
‘ proposals; tho’ you must be sensible,
‘ that I had much rather you would give
‘ me reason to impute your consent to a
‘ softer one. I love you more than life,
‘ or I should not have pursued the method
‘ I have taken, to get you into my power;
‘ and even now you are so, it must be your
‘ own fault if I make an arbitrary use of
‘ that power. To prove I am sincere in
‘ what I now say, I will carry on the de-
‘ ceit no longer, but confess the woman
‘ you call sister, bears no affinity to you,
‘ but is a person suborn’d to personate
‘ Mrs. Brown, who may be in Virginia
‘ for ought I know;—the man likewise,
‘ I will own, does not merit the honour
‘ of being stiled your brother, since he
‘ knows no more of your sister than I do,
‘ but is an honest acquaintance of mine,
‘ who obliged me with his assistance on this
‘ occasion.’

Observing

Observing Miss Wellers was in tears, he proceeded, ‘ Don’t, my dear girl, spoil
‘ your health and features, by giving way
‘ to an unavailing passion. You have no
‘ reason to fear I shall proceed to extre-
‘ mities, at least not at present. I give
‘ you the remainder of this week to con-
‘ sider of my offers ; at the end of which,
‘ if I find you obstinately persist in reject-
‘ ing them, you must not be surprized if
‘ I should take other measures to obtain
‘ my desire.’

The lady, half drowned in tears, reply’d,
‘ Time can never make any impression on
‘ my mind, in favour of such shocking
‘ proposals; and know, Sir Harry, my
‘ sentiments are as unalterably virtuous,
‘ as yours are the reverse. But if I am
‘ doom’d to be your prisoner till kind
‘ heaven shall think fit to release me, I
‘ beg you would not be so inhuman as
‘ to permit either of your wicked agents
‘ to come into my sight.’

Sir

Sir Harry promised to obey her in that particular; and accordingly gave orders, that no person but the maid who attended on her, should approach her.

She passed two days, (in which she saw no creature but the servant) in a situation of mind very difficult to describe. Amidst the afflicting thoughts that Sir Harry's late conversation had occasion'd, she had now and then a ray of hope, that her supplications would be heard by a higher power; and that Sir Harry's heart might change, or she be relieved from her distress, by some accident as unforeseen as that by which she escaped from Hampton-Court.

Whilst these pleasing reflections afforded her a little respite from tears, she overheard the wretches that were still in the house, advise Sir Harry not to be so distant in his behaviour to her; and made him a proposition that threw her into such a disorder, that she fainted away.

The

The maid, who was in an adjoining closet, hearing her fall, came to her, and was going to call her master and mistress to her assistance; when the lady recovering a little, stopt her, and listening very attentively, heard Sir Harry very warmly express his abhorrence of the scheme they proposed. This afforded her a gleam of satisfaction.

The time being expired that the baronet had given her to determine in, he waited upon her, and demanded her final answer.

‘ I have given it long ago, Sir Harry,’ answered the lady. ‘ I am not to be intimidated by threats, or bribed by wealth, to consent to what my soul abhors. I freely resign my life into your hands, but will never consent to part with my honour, which is much dearer to me.’

‘ Very heroic, truly !’ reply’d the baronet, ‘ I was in hopes the tragedy fit had been over, and that you would have con-
descended

‘ descended to hear reason. But since you
 ‘ continue to scorn me, I must tell you,
 ‘ madam,’ (raising his voice) ‘ I can bear
 ‘ these romantic airs no longer. And as
 ‘ you complain of your present situation,
 ‘ I have thought of another, to which I
 ‘ and a few trusty friends will conduct
 ‘ you to-morrow morning.—A journey of
 ‘ a hundred miles may be of service to
 ‘ your health; air, and exercise, the phy-
 ‘ sicians all allow, are sovereign remedies
 ‘ for the spleen and vapours, with which
 ‘ you seem terribly affected. Therefore
 ‘ to-morrow, madam, I shall wait upon
 ‘ you.’

In ending this speech, he made a care-
 less bow, and flung himself into the chair
 that waited for him, leaving Miss Wellers
 in the utmost distress of mind. And here,
 courteous reader, I hope you will not be
 concern’d that I follow Sir Harry’s polite
 example, and leave the lady, when she
 wou’d put one in the vapours.

C H A P. VII.

Very concise, but could not possibly be lengthned for reasons which the sagacious reader will discern.

MISS Wellers, having vented her tears, a stupidity succeeded, and she remained lost in a perfect insensibility, till she was roused from it by the entrance of a well-dress'd woman, who appear'd about fifty, and had the look of a gentleman.

‘ I perceive, madam,’ said this stranger to her, ‘ you are surpris'd at my intrusion, but I hope the letter I bring from Mrs. Goodall will apologize for it.’

The very name of her guardian gave Miss Wellers some ease. She open'd the epistle with impatience, and read as follows.

To Miss Wellers, &c.

‘ My dear,

‘ **T**HE receipt of your last alarming letter, threw me into an inexpressible
con-

LUCY WELLERS. 69

‘ consternation ; but, I hope this will come
‘ time enough to elude the vigilance of
‘ your persecutor and his accomplices.
‘ The rheumatism is fallen again into my
‘ hand, which obliges me to make use of
‘ Martin’s, to desire you would not hesi-
‘ tate a moment, but follow Mrs. Hart-
‘ well, whom I have intrusted to deliver
‘ this, and to conduct you to her house
‘ till you hear again from me. You need
‘ be under no apprehensions with this good
‘ gentlewoman, who has long been my
‘ friend, as you have often heard me say ;
‘ tho’ being at Bath when you were with
‘ with me in town, I had no opportunity
‘ of introducing you to each other. You
‘ will find a secure refuge under her hospi-
‘ table roof, till I can manage my affairs,
‘ so as to receive you in Albemarle-street,
‘ whither I propose removing, as soon as
‘ I can get rid of a slight indisposition
‘ which at present retards,

Dear Lucy,

Your most affectionate
and faithful friend,

S. GOODALL.

Having

Having read the letter, Miss Wellers address'd the bearer of it, 'Oh, madam!' said she, 'how happy has your presence made me;—let me obey my dear guardian's orders, and quit this detested house immediately.'

She had scarcely uttered these words, when three men mask'd, rush'd into the room; and without speaking a syllable, seized Miss Wellers, hurried her into a coach, and drove off, regardless of Mrs. Hartwell's intreaties or threats; for she uttered some with great vehemence. But Miss Wellers was incapable of hearing any thing that pass'd, having remain'd in a swoon, from the time she was put into the coach, till some minutes after she was taken out of it.

Proper remedies being apply'd, she open'd her eyes, and was surpriz'd to find herself in an apartment which was quite strange to her, as was an elderly grave woman, who seem'd very officious about her.

This

LUCY WELLERS. 71

This person asked Miss Wellers, if she should not help her to a glass of wine, or if she chose tea, after the fatigue of her journey and indisposition.

She answer'd, ' As you please : have I been a journey ? indeed I did not know it.'

Her thoughts were so confused at that time, that she talk'd in a very incoherent manner to her new landlady.

The tea being prepar'd, she drank a cup or two, with harts-horn drops, which brought her a little to herself, when she ask'd where she was ?

The woman reply'd, ' In Leicester-fields, madam, where I hope you will like.'

' And who brought me here ?' continued Miss Wellers.

' A gentleman,' answer'd the other, ' who has always been a very good friend
' to

‘ to me, and I dare say, madam, will prove
‘ himself so to you. He is still in the
‘ house, but would not come into the
‘ room till you were recovered from your
‘ disorder, for fear of alarming you.’

Miss Wellers reply’d, ‘ I can guess who
‘ he is : but I beg he may not be admitted
‘ to-night, for I am too much fatigued to
‘ endure his conversation. Pray, madam,
‘ be so good as go to him, and tell him I
‘ condescend to intreat him not to insist
‘ on seeing me to-night.’

The gentlewoman went to deliver this
message. And Miss Wellers, who apprehended this was a fresh scheme of Sir Harry Wilsmore’s, was very near returning to her swoon at the thought ; which added to the disappointment Mrs. Goodall must meet with, in not finding her at Mrs. Hartwell’s, and the reflection that she was still in the power of the man she dreaded. For she had no doubt but the baronet’s accomplices had overheard Mrs. Hartwell’s conversation, and her exclamation against the

the house, and to that she imputed his removal of her.

These reflections as I have said, tended to render her almost lifeless for some moments ; then more agreeable ones occurred to her mind. She imagined she saw something more gentle and humane in the countenance of her new landlady, than in those of the wretches she had left : and flatter'd herself with the hopes that she might be ignorant of Sir Harry's intentions ; and that, by letting her into her story, she might possibly prevail with this gentlewoman to be aiding in her escape from his power. How far she was right in these conjectures, will appear hereafter.

C H A P. VIII.

In which a gentleman is introduced to Miss Wellers, who talks a great while.

THE gentlewoman return'd from her errand, and told Miss Wellers that the gentleman sent his most respectful compliments, and begg'd admittance to her presence but for one quarter of an hour, having something to impart to her that would lessen her apprehensions.

‘ I perceive,’ answer’d the lady, ‘ this importunate man will not be denied. If I must see him, please to bring him in ; but I beg, madam, you would not leave us together.’

Upon this she went out, and return’d in a moment with the gentleman, who proved to be,—not the so much dreaded baronet, but the gentle barrister.

‘ Mr. Godfrey !’ cry’d Miss Wellers. Her amazement at his unexpected approach would

would not permit her to say more. He accosted her with the utmost respect.

‘Madam,’ said he, ‘I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken, and the rough means I was necessitated to make use of, to bring you to a place of safety. I received a letter from Mrs. Goodall to-day, who tells me she shall be in town in three days: in the mean time, desires you would continue in these lodgings, which are very private. Mrs. Minter, the mistress of the house, is a person of an unblemished character, who has been known to me several years; she was once house-keeper to Mr. Samber.’

Miss Wellers was full of acknowledgments for this second deliverance; but said, she was surprized Mrs. Goodall should change her orders so soon, ‘for you will see, Sir,’ continued she, presenting him the letter she receiv’d by Mrs. Hartwell, ‘she had other designs; and I was just going with Mrs. Hartwell, when you took me away.’

Having read the letter, Mr. Godfrey vented this exclamation, ‘ Thank heaven !
‘ I came as I did !—this letter, I perceive,
‘ madam, is a piece of forgery : and I am
‘ asham’d that any one of my sex, could
‘ be capable of so base and low a strata-
‘ gem. Mrs. Goodall never indited this,
‘ for she tells me in one of a later date,
‘ that she knew not where you were, and
‘ was surpris’d she had not heard from
‘ you.’

‘ Do you imagine then,’ said Miss Wel-
lers, ‘ that she did not send Mrs. Hart-
‘ well ?’

‘ I imagine, madam,’ answer’d he, ‘ nay,
‘ I am certain she did not ; and was even
‘ ignorant of the place you were in. But
‘ who is this Mrs. Hartwell ?’

‘ The gentlewoman you found with me
‘ when you carried me away,’ reply’d the
lady.

‘ IF

‘ If so, madam, I am convinced you
 ‘ have been grossly deceived ; for I well re-
 ‘ member that woman’s face, when she ap-
 ‘ pear’d before a court of justice. Her
 ‘ name is not Hartwell, I assure you ;
 ‘ and she is one of those abandon’d
 ‘ wretches, who make it their business to
 ‘ decoy the young and innocent of her sex
 ‘ into ruin. And I am now convinced
 ‘ she was employ’d as an agent to your
 ‘ persecutor.’

‘ You astonish me !’ reply’d Miss Wel-
 lers, ‘ good heaven ! What a precipice
 ‘ have I escaped ! But pray, Sir, by what
 ‘ miracle were you informed of my
 ‘ danger ?’

‘ That, madam,’ answer’d he, ‘ I will
 ‘ tell you to-morrow, for your spirits must
 ‘ require repose after the vicissitudes of this
 ‘ day ; I therefore beg you would endea-
 ‘ vour to compose them.’

Then recommending the lady to the
 care of Mrs. Minter, he retired ; and

Miss Wellers enjoy'd a repose that she had been unacquainted with since her arrival in town.

Mr. Godfrey waited on her by breakfast next day. Having reply'd to his enquiries after her health, she intreated him to perform the promise he had given her the preceding evening.

He reply'd, ' Since the event has proved
' so fortunate, I will, madam, acquaint
' you with the whole of my proceedings
' in the affair, and the means by which I
' discover'd your situation. You may
' remember, madam, I propos'd a journey
' to Mr. Willit's about this time : accord-
' ingly I set out, I find, the day after you
' left St. Albans. I was overtaken by a
' storm about five miles on the other side of
' that town ; and to screen myself from the
' rain, I took shelter under a cart-lodge be-
' longing to a large farm-house. I had not
' been station'd there many minutes, when
' the good woman of the house sent her
' maid out, to desire me to alight and walk
' in.'

‘ I thankfully accepted the invitation,
‘ and was conducted into a large room,
‘ which they called the house. My eyes
‘ were agreeably regaled with observing
‘ the exact neatness that appear’d in every
‘ part of this spacious room, which was
‘ adorn’d with a long brown table, polish’d
‘ as bright as a mirror, and surround-
‘ ed with benches; a few white chairs
‘ with rush bottoms, and one of wicker,
‘ with a canopy over it, placed in rustic
‘ state by the side of a large wood fire,
‘ and defended from the air of the door
‘ by a striped stuff curtain, in which I
‘ discern’d several curious darns. On the
‘ wall was pasted King Charles’s golden
‘ rules, many *last words* of the famous Bax-
‘ ter, and a few stars, drawn with a com-
‘ pass, which my hostess inform’d me were
‘ the performance of her son Johnny,
‘ when he was a lad. The windows of
‘ this mansion, were placed at too great a
‘ height, and too much obscured by ivy,
‘ to permit the rays of the sun to damage
‘ the short calicoe curtains.

‘ My generous hostess received me with
‘ an open countenance, and after many
‘ low courtesies, said,’ “ Lauk a day ! Sir,
“ why would not you come in *afore* I
“ sent ? you are kindly welcome to what
“ entertainment my dwelling affords : for
“ I love to be civil to strangers, be-
“ cause they say they that entertain
“ strangers, mayhap may entertain angels.
“ Will you please to taste a mug of my
“ ale ? tho’ mayhap, Sir, you may like
“ a glass of mead better : come, Dorcas,
“ bring a glass, good girl, you need not
“ change your *erpon* ; the gentleman will
“ excuse you. Lauk-a-day ! how it pours !
“ Well, ’tis piteous weather ; have you
“ taken care of the ducks ?”

‘ Then turning to me,’ “ Come, Sir,
“ here’s to your health, in a cup of good
“ drink, though I say it ; which will you
“ please to taste ?”

‘ I thank’d her, but said if she could
‘ give me a dish of tea it would be more
‘ agreeable.’

“ Oh,

“ Oh, yes ! that I can,” answer’d the
 “ good woman, “ and I have got some fine
 “ *bysetom* that was given me.”

“ She then set the tea-kettle on the fire,
 “ and a large slice of bread before it, to
 “ toast. Then began to apologize that her
 “ house was not in better order, saying,
 “ I did not expect to see strangers to-day,
 “ much more gentlemen, so I said to my
 “ maid, Dorcas said I, you need not tight
 “ up the house for my husband, he is gone
 “ to stand godfather to my neighbour
 “ Herd’s child ;—I should have gone my-
 “ self, indeed, if I had not had a thought
 “ to see my son Johnny at night. But
 “ *howsoever* I am glad my husband wan’t
 “ in Twenty Acres to-day, for he had
 “ done there but last night. What I sup-
 “ pose, Sir, you are going to our squire’s.
 “ Lauk-a-day ! Well ! I can see as far into
 “ a mill-stone as another ; there has been
 “ a talk that Miss Prissy had a suiterer.
 “ Well, Sir ! I heartily wish you *excess*
 “ and *posterity*.”

‘ The honest woman’s supposition made
‘ me smile. However, I undeceived her,
‘ by saying I was not so fortunate to be in
‘ any lady’s good graces. She answer’d,
“ Lauk-a-day ! that’s much though, you
“ are a likely gentleman.” (I only repeat
‘ her words, madam, to give you an idea of
‘ the woman) “ Well ! ’tis pity but you
“ should be married.”

‘ Then looking hard at me, “ Well !
“ to be sure if you an’t promised, I know
“ one that wou’d suit you to a tee, for
“ you are as like as two pease in a bushel.”

‘ Pray, who is that ? said I.’ “ Why you
“ don’t know her to be sure, but ’tis a
“ young gentlewoman that keeps at one
“ Madam Goodall’s.”

‘ What, Mrs. Goodall of Albemarle-
‘ street ?’

“ Yes, yes,” reply’d the good woman,
“ that’s she, I see her yesterday ; for I went
“ to

“ to St. Albans early in the morning, to
 “ buy a few shop goods; and as it looked
 “ as if ’twou’d be a fine day, I said to my
 “ husband, Johnny, said I, if you’ll let
 “ me have the Doughty mare, I’ll go to
 “ town. Said he, you may go if you will
 “ Betty, said he, but I wou’d not have
 “ you ride Doughty, because she’s a foal.
 “ Well, said I, let me have the Dodman
 “ horse then, for I wou’d not for no
 “ money have the poor creature come to
 “ no harm. Pray, Sir, is the tea to your
 “ liking?”

‘ I answer’d, very good; but begg’d she
 ‘ wou’d tell me where she saw the lady?’

‘ Upon which she continued, “ So, Sir,
 “ as I was saying, I *rid* Dodman to St.
 “ Albans; and as I was standing at Mr.
 “ Kersey’s the draper’s door, who should
 “ I see, but the young gentlewoman I
 “ spoke on, riding in a coach along with
 “ Squire Revel, and his miss. Now, I
 “ was a little stounded; for thinks I to my-
 “ self, I wonder Madam Goodall should

“ like she shou’d keep company with such
“ a solemn rake as the squire and his
“ miss, who is counted as bad a woman
“ as any in the country.”

‘ This intelligence, you may imagine,
‘ madam, gave me no less surprize than
‘ dissatisfaction. I asked my hostess if she
‘ spoke to you? Her answer was, “ No, I
“ wan’t so bold : and the coach drove very
“ fast by, that I had only time to make
“ my *obedience*; and I count she did not
“ *recollate* my face, for she took no notice
“ on me.”

‘ At this instant a whistle was heard at
‘ the gate, upon which the maid ran out.

“ I count,” said the prating woman,
“ that’s our young parson, for no body but
“ he would come out such weather; but he
“ *suspects* a letter, and the post always
“ leaves ’em here : he is a good sort of
“ man, and talks very well in the pulpit :
“ but he has only a *curacyship* at present,
“ tho’ he has the promise of a living when
“ the

“ the *incumbrance* dies, and he is very old
“ and ailing.”

‘ Whilst she was running on in this
‘ manner, the door open’d, and Dorcas
‘ introduced a man muffled up in a horse-
‘ man’s coat.’ “ How do you do, mo-
“ ther?” said the stranger; “ Oh, lauk-a-
“ day! Johnny, is it you?” ‘ answer’d
‘ my hostess. Then turning to me, “ This,
“ Sir, is my son Johnny, that I told you
“ on.”

‘ Upon looking in his face, I was agree-
‘ ably surprized to find Mrs. Goodall’s
‘ steward in the person of her son. He
‘ appear’d no less amazed than I, at so un-
‘ expected a meeting. After we had mu-
‘ tually greeted each other, I began to en-
‘ quire for your guardian and her family;
‘ when he inform’d me of his attending
‘ you to St. Albans, and delivering you
‘ safe into your sister’s hands. From
‘ whence he went upon business some miles,
‘ which prevented his coming to his fa-
‘ ther’s before.’

‘ I then related what I had heard from
‘ his mother, concerning you. Upon
‘ which he question’d her very particu-
‘ larly ; then fixing his eyes upon me, he
‘ asked me to retire with him into another
‘ room. We were no sooner alone, but I
‘ demanded of him what he thought of
‘ this affair ? ” “ Sir,” answer’d he, “ I don’t
“ like it. Tho’ I have no personal acquaint-
“ tance with Mr. Revel, his character I
“ know is notoriously bad.”

‘ Then pausing a while, he proceeded,
“ There is a person in this neighbourhood
“ that can give you some account of him :
“ if you will do my mother the honour
“ to take a bed here, I’ll send to desire
“ him to come here early in the morning.
“ Perhaps he may give us some light into
“ this business.”

‘ I told Mr. Stedman I much approv-
‘ ed his scheme. And in the morning by
‘ seven, the person arrived, whose name
‘ was Carter ; he was a spruce farmer,
‘ who

‘ who liv’d in his own, as they call it:
 ‘ Mr. Stedman told him I had a little bu-
 ‘ siness with Mr. Revel, and should be
 ‘ glad if he could inform me where he
 ‘ was to be found.’

“ Ah, Sir !” answer’d Carter, “ Frank
 “ Revel is a slippery chap ; no one knows
 “ where to catch him.—I met him the
 “ day before yesterday upon the road with
 “ his doxy, and a pretty innocent looking
 “ young creature, that I am afraid he has
 “ decoy’d from her friends for some bad
 “ purpose.”

‘ Why, to confess the truth, answer’d
 ‘ I, I am in search of a young lady that
 ‘ I suspect he has taken away from her
 ‘ friends. But as I never saw him, and
 ‘ have no acquaintance with him, I want
 ‘ a direction where to find him.’

“ I wish I could help you to one,” re-
 ‘ ply’d Carter, “ but I can tell you, ’tis
 “ no easy matter to find out his haunts. I
 “ imagine by the road he was in, he is
 “ gone

“ gone to London ; but he has no fettled
“ abode there.”

‘ Pray, Sir,’ said I, ‘ who is this Revel ?
‘ for he is so great a stranger to me, that
‘ I know not his family.’

“ Sir,” answer’d Carter, “ you could
“ not have met with one that could have
“ given you a fuller account of him than
“ I, as my father and his were old ac-
“ quaintance. His father, Sir, was stew-
“ ard to old Sir Andrew Dumiel, who was
“ one of those fine gentlemen that think
“ it an *undervaluement* to look into their
“ own affairs ; and I’m afraid old Frank
“ was only honest with good looking-after :
“ let that be as it will, he was able to buy
“ when Sir Andrew was forced to sell ;
“ and in a few years, by his management,
“ got a pretty estate, of near five hundred
“ a year. His master luckily marrying a
“ lady who brought him fourscore thou-
“ sand pound, was not sensible of the de-
“ triment Revel did him. He had only
“ one child, this Frank you are enquiring
“ after.

“ after. So he had a mind to breed him
 “ up a gentleman; and for that purpose
 “ he put him to board at a grammar-school;
 “ but the discipline there was too strict
 “ for Frank’s humour, and his father being
 “ so fond of him, he could deny him no-
 “ thing, at his desire took him home,
 “ where he diverted himself with his dogs
 “ and horses; his father supplying him
 “ with money to defray the expences he
 “ was at, in frequenting all the horse-races
 “ and cock-matches in the kingdom. At
 “ these places he made an acquaintance
 “ with many gentlemen of fortune, who
 “ admired his skill in such like sports.
 “ No sooner was his father laid in his cold
 “ grave, than he took a girl into his
 “ house, that he had debauch’d under a
 “ promise of marriage; a very honest far-
 “ mer’s daughter: her poor father never
 “ held up his head after, and her mother
 “ took it so much to heart, that it threw
 “ her into a lingering illness, which sent
 “ her to her grave. This young woman
 “ lived with him two years, at the end
 “ of

“ of which he carried her to London,
“ and left her as destitute of money as she
“ was of virtue. Here she became a com-
“ mon prostitute for bread, and died in
“ a miserable manner within the year.
“ When he had got rid of her, he sup-
“ plied her place with several young girls,
“ who successively shared her fate. His
“ house was a continual scene of riot and
“ debauchery ; by which means he outrun
“ his estate, and was at last obliged to
“ sell it, and purchase an annuity to keep
“ him from want : but this not being suf-
“ ficient to supply his expences, he turn’d
“ pimp ; and in that capacity is ready to
“ serve any gentleman that will employ
“ him. He has lately renewed an acquaint-
“ tance with a young baronet, whose
“ friends were in hopes he would have
“ shook him off, on his return from his
“ travels : and I have heard that Sir Har-
“ ry Willmore has a very mean opinion
“ of him, and only makes use of him as
“ his purveyor in regard to women.”

‘ Here Mr. Stedman’s eyes and mine
‘ met.’

‘ Mr.

‘ Mr. Carter continued,’ “ I doubt
“ Frank has met with his match at last ;
“ for the woman he now keeps is a sad
“ virago ; and though he knows she is
“ a common prostitute to all his acquaint-
“ tance, he does not dare to turn her
“ away, and can hardly say his soul is
“ his own ; neither durst he touch a penny
“ more than she is pleased to allow him.”

‘ Poor wretch ! said I, I pity him.’

“ Pity him !” cry’d Carter, “ can such
“ a consummate villain deserve compassi-
“ on ?”

‘ Yes,’ reply’d I, ‘ I pity him as a
‘ villain. What pangs must such a wretch
‘ endure ? The man of virtue, deprived
‘ by inadvertency or misfortune of exte-
‘ rior comforts, has still a happy resource
‘ in the internal satisfaction arising from
‘ a conscience void of offence. But, Mr.
‘ Carter, as you know Revel, and seem to
‘ be a man that would interest yourself in
‘ the

‘ the cause of distressed innocence, I believe I
‘ need not assure you I would make it
‘ worth your while to go to town with me.
‘ Perhaps we may meet with him, and pre-
‘ vent him from perpetrating a crime
‘ which I tremble but to think of. We
‘ will visit the coffee-houses, and other
‘ places of public resort, which no doubt
‘ he frequents, and if you can but point
‘ him out to me, I don’t fear tracing him
‘ to his lodgings, which is all I want.
‘ Mr. Carter consented to this, and I wrote
‘ to give Mrs. Goodall information of all
‘ I had heard. Mr. Stedman set out with
‘ this letter, and I with Mr. Carter for town.
‘ I must own the letter which I accident-
‘ ally met with upon the road, and con-
‘ vey’d to you, occurred to my remem-
‘ brance the moment Carter mention’d
‘ Revel’s christian name, and served to
‘ strengthen my suspicion and uneasiness.
‘ I am surpriz’d, madam, if you ever re-
‘ ceived it, it did not create in you some
‘ suspicion of a plot.’

Miss Wellers answer’d, it did; but this
was so artfully conducted, that she never
should

should have suspected Sir Harry Wilsmore had been concerned in it, had not he himself confess'd it to her. She then begg'd Mr. Godfrey to proceed in his narration, which he did.

‘ Mr. Carter,’ said he, ‘ accompany’d
 ‘ me to town, and we were continually at
 ‘ the places where we imagined Revel was
 ‘ to be found ; but never met with him till
 ‘ yesterday morning, when calling in at
 ‘ White’s, Mr. Carter show’d him to me.
 ‘ We waited till he left the room, and dog-
 ‘ ged him to his lodgings, which was no
 ‘ small fatigue, as they were at such a dis-
 ‘ tance. We planted ourselves near the house,
 ‘ and saw Sir Harry Wilsmore come out :
 ‘ upon which I sent Stedman, (who was
 ‘ but just come off his journey) for the
 ‘ masks I had prepared, and taking ad-
 ‘ vantage of the hackney-coach which
 ‘ waited for the woman that you call
 ‘ Hartwell, I put you into it : giving the
 ‘ coachman an extraordinary gratuity be-
 ‘ yond his fare, he left his station, and
 ‘ brought you hither. Mr. Stedman de-
 ‘ livered

‘livered this letter to me, from Mrs. Goodall, yesterday, in which you will see she is very impatient to hear of you. I last night wrote to inform her of what I had done, and where you were, and expect her in town every day.’

Miss Wellers began afresh to pour forth her acknowledgments to Mr. Godfrey for his friendly care.

He very modestly reply’d, he thought himself much indebted to providence, for putting the means of her deliverance into his hands: and desired she would do him the honour to acquaint him with what had passed, during her residence with Revel; which request she complied with, and expressed such a detestation of the baronet, as afforded infinite satisfaction to the barrister, who, by the more than usual respect he paid to her, and some tender expressions which seem’d to escape inadvertently from him, began to inspire her with some faint notions that they proceeded from more than a disinterested friendship: however,

as

as he did not explain himself, this conjecture made no alteration in her behaviour to him, which continued easy and unreserved.

At leaving her, Mr. Godfrey said, he was sorry business would not permit him to pass more of his time with her, as it was not proper she should stir out of the house till Mrs. Goodall arrived. In the meantime he recommended Mrs. Minter to her notice, saying she would find her a very intelligent agreeable woman. Upon which he desired Mrs. Minter to walk in, and departed.

C H A P. IX.

Contains the history of Mrs. Minter.

MISS Wellers found Mrs. Minter perfectly answer'd the character Mr. Godfrey had given of her ; and by the politeness of her behaviour, and a certain *je ne scai quoi* in her manner, imagined she had been reduced from a more elevated station than she was now in.

To satisfy herself upon that head, Miss Wellers civilly asked her some questions concerning her family, and way of life. She reply'd, she had not been long in the situation Miss Wellers found her ; that she had once experienc'd a more independent state ; but was now a widow, and had an only daughter of about four and twenty, who was at present gone to visit a friend at Hampstead, but she expected her home every hour.

Miss Wellers, not content with this general account, said, ' I am sorry, madam,

' to

‘ to find you have met with misfortunes,
 ‘ tho’ they are frequently the lot of per-
 ‘ sons of the greatest merit.’

‘ I have indeed, madam,’ return’d Mrs.
 Minter, ‘ met with a reverse of fortune,
 ‘ in my day ; but thank heaven, I have no
 ‘ reason to repine, since my lot is by no
 ‘ means so unhappy as many more de-
 ‘ serving persons have experienced : and
 ‘ as there is no passing through this world
 ‘ without meeting with crosses, I find
 ‘ more occasion for thanksgiving than
 ‘ murmuring, that those which fell to my
 ‘ share have not thrown me much lower
 ‘ than I am.’

Finding her talk so calmly on this sub-
 ject, Miss Wellers desired, if it would not
 revive disagreeable scenes to her mind, she
 would be so good to favour her with an
 account of those she had passed through.

To which Mrs. Minter reply’d, ‘ If it
 ‘ will afford you any amusement, madam,
 ‘ I will freely communicate the most ma-
 Vol. II. F terial

‘ terial circumstances of a life that has
‘ been too obscure to merit your notice.’

Miss Wellers answer’d, ‘ I find myself
‘ too much interested in what regards you,
‘ not to be desirous of improving an ac-
‘ quaintance with you, madam; and there-
‘ fore, I beg you would make no more
‘ apologies, but proceed to inform me of
‘ what I long to know.’

‘ Then, madam,’ said Mrs. Minter,
‘ without any preamble I will tell you,
‘ I am the daughter of a gentleman who
‘ held a considerable post in the army.
‘ My mother brought me into the world
‘ some years after she had given over all
‘ thoughts of an increase in her family.
‘ She had eight children then living, the
‘ youngest of which was seven years of
‘ age: and I fear, instead of regarding
‘ me as a blessing, I was looked upon as
‘ an unexpected incumbrance by my pa-
‘ rents, and an intruder by my brothers
‘ and sisters. Many snubs I endured
‘ from them all, in my childhood: how-
‘ ever,

‘ ever, I believe the little affection that
 ‘ they shewed to me turned out to my
 ‘ advantage, as by that means I escaped
 ‘ being spoiled by indulgence, and was
 ‘ early innured to mortifications.’

‘ I soon perceived the little favour that
 ‘ was shewn me by my relations; and en-
 ‘ deavour’d, by making as speedy a pro-
 ‘ gress as I was able, under my instructors,
 ‘ to encrease it: but this expedient drew
 ‘ upon me the envy of my brothers and
 ‘ sisters, who had found a shorter way to
 ‘ the affections of my parents: they, ob-
 ‘ serving the assiduity with which I ap-
 ‘ ply’d to my lessons, began to regard me
 ‘ in a kinder manner; and when I attain’d
 ‘ to my fourteenth year, I was permitted
 ‘ to attend my mother sometimes in a
 ‘ visit. I had naturally an inclination for
 ‘ reading; and as I was allowed few other
 ‘ amusements, many leisure hours I pass-
 ‘ ed in perusing the best authors I could
 ‘ obtain out of my father’s study; for
 ‘ though he was a military man, he had
 ‘ received an academical education, and
 F 2 ‘ had

‘ had a fondness for letters : therefore, far
‘ from discouraging this disposition in me,
‘ he appear’d pleas’d with it, and furnish-
‘ ed me with what books he thought
‘ proper.’

‘ My sisters were displeased at the method
‘ I pursued, as they perceived my father’s
‘ affection increased towards me; and
‘ being much my superiors in years, they
‘ assumed an authority over me, and
‘ loudly exclaimed against the way in which
‘ I spent my time ; frequently saying,
“ Jenny ought to have five thousand
“ pounds to support so indolent a dispo-
“ sition.” ‘ Though, I assure you, I never
‘ indulged my inclination for books, to
‘ the exclusion of domestic and other fe-
‘ minine employments ; my needle was
‘ much oftner in my hand than my book,
‘ and I not only used it in all the necessa-
‘ ry occasions of the family, but took a
‘ delight in rendering it subservient to my
‘ sisters pleasure, in many superfluous and
‘ ornamental performances, which they
‘ wore, at the very time they have de-
‘ clar’d

' clar'd *that a woman that was fond of read-*
 ' *ing could be good for nothing else.* These
 ' declarations amazed me then, as I could
 ' not comprehend how the improvement
 ' of the understanding could have so con-
 ' trary an effect in one sex from what it
 ' is allow'd to have on the other; espe-
 ' cially in a nation where women are per-
 ' mitted to converse with men, and have
 ' frequently a large share in the education
 ' of children: in both which cases, such
 ' an improvement seemed to me expedi-
 ' ent. But I have since learn'd, that there
 ' are a sort of people in the world, who
 ' think proper to decry every acquisition
 ' that is above their own capacities; and
 ' modestly affirm there is no occasion for
 ' any which they themselves cannot at-
 ' tain. For my own part, I confess I
 ' have an aversion to a female pedant; and
 ' indeed to all pretenders, who are *but*
 ' pretenders to *wit*: neither do I perceive
 ' any necessity for a woman to be what is
 ' called *learned*; but a very great one
 ' for every one to endeavour to cultivate

‘ her understanding, as far as lies in her
‘ power : and no woman of any degree of
‘ sense, that has ever perused that incom-
‘ parable letter of Dr. Swift, to a new-
‘ married lady, will value herself too much
‘ on any progress she can make in lite-
‘ rature, as she will there find how limit-
‘ ed any feminine acquisitions of this na-
‘ ture are.’

‘ But to return from this digression. My
‘ sisters being of the disposition I have de-
‘ scribed, led me a very uneasy life : my
‘ brothers were dispersed about, some in
‘ the army, and some in the navy, that I
‘ very seldom saw them after I grew up.
‘ My father dying when I was eighteen,
‘ my mother had very little besides her
‘ pension, for the support of herself and
‘ family. Her sons were settled in the
‘ world, and were to make their way
‘ through it by their professions ; but her
‘ daughters had only four hundred pounds
‘ each, and that not to be demanded till
‘ her decease.

‘ We

‘ We had an elderly relation who was
 ‘ my godmother, that was very fond of
 ‘ me, and offer’d to let me live with her,
 ‘ and give me my board and cloaths, as it
 ‘ was not in her power to do any thing
 ‘ for me at her death. This offer my
 ‘ mother approved, and I accepted with
 ‘ joy and gratitude. Not long after I was
 ‘ fix’d at my godmother’s, she propos’d
 ‘ a match for me : the person she recom-
 ‘ mended, was a morose batchelor, near
 ‘ threescore, remarkably penurious, and a
 ‘ most abandon’d debauchee : but he was
 ‘ rich, which my friend imagin’d would
 ‘ be a sufficient inducement for a girl of
 ‘ my expectations to hearken to him.

‘ When she first made the proposition to
 ‘ me, I thought her in jest, and answer’d
 ‘ accordingly. But when she began ear-
 ‘ nestly to represent to me the advantages
 ‘ which she said arose from marrying a
 ‘ man past the flights of youth, that could
 ‘ provide handsomely for me during his
 ‘ life, and leave me a wealthy widow ;

‘ I protested I would never sacrifice my-
‘ self in that manner, and alledged the cha-
‘ racter he bore of an exorbitant usurer,
‘ and notorious wench, as a justifiable
‘ excuse for refusing him. She said, as
‘ to the first part of my accusation, she
‘ could not pretend to contradict it, but
‘ as I should not be accessory to his ex-
‘ tortion, I might enjoy the fruits of it
‘ with a safe conscience; for whatever me-
‘ thods he encreased his wealth by, was
‘ no concern of mine, save that it would
‘ be my advantage: and as to the latter
‘ objection I made, tho’ he might for-
‘ merly have deserved it, I had no reason
‘ to cavil at such reports, now he was de-
‘ termined to marry and live *honestly*; add-
‘ ing, a reform’d rake made the best of
‘ husbands. A notion I have observ’d to
‘ be too prevalent amongst our sex:
‘ though I cannot conceive from whence
‘ it arose; since it appears to me very in-
‘ consistent with common sense, that
‘ a virtuous woman should expect to
‘ pass

' pass happier days in the society of a man
 ' habituated to a vitious course of life,
 ' who if he does reform, must have many
 ' gloomy reflections, which may have a
 ' disagreeable effect on his conversation
 ' and behaviour, than with a man whose
 ' actions can afford him no such uncom-
 ' fortable retrospection : not to mention a
 ' multitude of cogent reasons, that must
 ' occur to any woman of the least delica-
 ' cy; sufficient, one would think, to ex-
 ' plode such a mistaken notion.

' These being my sentiments, you will
 ' not wonder that I strenuously opposed
 ' the intentions of my godmother, and re-
 ' solutely refused to receive the addresses
 ' of the miser. This refusal so offended
 ' her, that in her wrath she sent me home
 ' to my mother, who was entirely of her
 ' opinion in the case, and declared if I
 ' would not accept the husband they had
 ' provided for me, I should be turn'd out
 ' of her house.

' I used all the arguments I could, to con-
 ' vince her inevitable misery must be my

‘ lot, if I comply’d with her desire in this
‘ particular. When, finding her persist in
‘ her opinion, I earnestly intreated her to
‘ bind me apprentice to a milliner of our
‘ acquaintance ; desiring the expence she
‘ should be at might be deducted out of
‘ the small sum I could claim at her de-
‘ cease. This proposition made my sisters
‘ excessive merry ; and one of them asked
‘ me, in an ironical tone, which of my
‘ books would teach me to plait up a
‘ cap ?

‘ Not regarding their envy, I continued
‘ to solicit my mother, till she at length
‘ consented to my request ; and I was
‘ bound to a milliner in Cornhill. My
‘ mistress was a very good sort of woman,
‘ and treated me with great kindness. I pass-
‘ ed three years with her, in which time I
‘ never had the least dispute with her, or
‘ my fellow prentices. About this time,
‘ a young West India merchant, who fre-
‘ quented our shop, made his addresses to
‘ me, and having no relations to consult,
‘ offer’d marriage, tho’ I frankly acquaint-

' ed him with my circumstances. His were
 ' very considerable; and as he bore an ex-
 ' cellent character, I had no objection,
 ' but apply'd to my mother for her con-
 ' sent, which was readily obtain'd, and I
 ' married Mr. Minter.

' We lived together in uninterrupted
 ' harmony, and a state of affluence several
 ' years, in which time I brought him a
 ' son and a daughter. Our son, at the age
 ' of sixteen, was sent to reside some time
 ' with our factor in Jamaica. He was as
 ' engaging a youth as ever was known;
 ' and by the sweetness of his temper,
 ' brightness of his parts; and filial obedi-
 ' ence to his father and myself, became
 ' the little idol of our hearts: Alas! I
 ' fear he was but too much so, and hea-
 ' ven thought fit to punish us, for be-
 ' stowing so large a share of our affections
 ' on a mortal, by depriving us of this
 ' darling son. He died by the excessive
 ' heat of the climate. Our grief was
 ' equal to the occasion. We had now no
 ' child but our daughter, on whom we
 F 6 ' deter-

‘ determined to bestow an education suit-
‘ able to the fortune we imagined she
‘ must inherit.

‘ Mr. Minter was a man of strict justice,
‘ and his affection for me was so conspi-
‘ cuous, that I had reason to think my-
‘ self inferior to few mortals in happi-
‘ ness. But, in the midst of my prosper-
‘ ity, I observed Mr. Minter grew me-
‘ lancholy, and uncommonly dejected;
‘ which alarming me, on account of his
‘ health, I frequently asked him the cause
‘ of these appearances? But could obtain
‘ no other reply, than, “ My dear Jenny,
“ I am very well; what should make
“ you imagine otherwise?”—‘ However,
‘ one evening I perceiv’d he could with
‘ difficulty suppress his tears. I then told
‘ him, I was very certain some accident
‘ had given him uneasiness, and begg’d
‘ he wou’d no longer conceal it from me,
‘ who had a right to partake of it. I assur-
‘ ed him, I had fortitude to support the
‘ knowledge of any misfortune that did
‘ not tend to deprive me of him; and
‘ should

' should take it unkind, if he refused to
 ' acquaint me with it. After many in-
 ' treaties, he told me he had sustained
 ' great losses in his shipping; saying, not
 ' one vessel has got safe in port,' " Not
 " one," said he, with a sigh, " and I am
 " undone!"

' Shocking as this intelligence was, I
 ' endeavour'd to conceal my concern from
 ' him, and said all I could to console him;
 ' protesting, I could with ease descend
 ' from the plenty we had lived in: and
 ' provided we were not separated, I should
 ' be happy let our circumstances be ever
 ' so much reduced. He seem'd somewhat
 ' more chearful at my appearing so easy;
 ' and we consulted what was proper to
 ' be done, in order to retrieve his affairs.

' It was at length agreed, that the only
 ' probable method, was for Mr. Minter
 ' to go himself to Jamaica; and that I and
 ' my daughter should take a little lodging
 ' in town, where we should remain till
 ' we heard his success.

' This

‘ This separation was a severe stroke !
‘ To be deprived at once, not only of a
‘ plentiful income, but of the company of
‘ the most indulgent and best of husbands,
‘ was terrible indeed : however, the pressing
‘ exigence of his affairs, made his departure
‘ requisite. Our furniture was all sold, and
‘ our creditors paid; and with the little
‘ money that was left, my dear husband
‘ embark’d, except one hundred pound,
‘ which he obliged me to retain for the
‘ support of myself and child, till we
‘ could receive remittances from him.

‘ You may imagine our parting scene
‘ was very tender, but,—I cannot dwell
‘ upon that. I had a pleasing account of
‘ his safe arrival. And from time to
‘ time, received satisfactory letters from
‘ him, informing me of his health and
‘ prosperity, with remittances sufficient to
‘ provide for my little family.

‘ After an absence of six years, he ac-
‘ quainted me with his design of return-
‘ ing

' ing to England the spring following,
 ' having met with such success in his un-
 ' dertakings, that we should be enabled to
 ' pass the remainder of our days in ease
 ' and plenty, retired from business.

' This agreeable news raised the most
 ' pleasing ideas in my mind: I thought
 ' of little else all day, dreamt of nothing
 ' all night but the happiness that awaited
 ' me, and was ever forming schemes to im-
 ' prove it. My daughter sympathized
 ' with me on this occasion; she was perpe-
 ' tually counting the months and weeks,
 ' and rejoiced at the conclusion of each as
 ' they passed, hoping she was so much
 ' nearer the sight of the tenderest of pa-
 ' rents: she set herself to embroider him
 ' a waistcoat against his return, imagin-
 ' ing such a performance of her's would
 ' be very acceptable.

' She was one day exulting that she had
 ' finished it before her dear papa arrived,
 ' when the maid came to tell me a cler-
 ' gyman desired to speak with me. I or-
 ' der'd

der'd he might be shewn up, supposing,
as indeed it proved, that it was a worthy
divine, with whom my husband and I
had had a long acquaintance. I observed
at his entrance, a concern in his counte-
nance, which seem'd to indicate he had
something to communicate that I dread-
ed to know. He had not been long
seated, e'er he enter'd into a discourse on
the duty of resignation to the divine will;
which I fear'd was a prelude to some
bad news. My fears were prophetic;
for after he had gradually prepared my
mind for the melancholy recital, he in-
form'd me that the ship in which my
husband had embark'd himself, and all
his effects, was taken by the Algerines,
coming into the chops of the channel.

No words can paint my grief, or time
erase from my memory, what I endur-
ed at this fatal news! I seem'd, at first
hearing it, seiz'd with stupidity, which
lasted near an hour; then I gave vent to
lamentations, in which my daughter ac-
company'd me. The good clergyman
would

• would not leave us in the first gust of
 • our tears, but staid till we were some-
 • what calmer; and administer'd great con-
 • solation, in his frequent and friendly
 • visits afterwards, in which he frequently
 • exhorted me to rely intirely on the pro-
 • tection of that all-powerful being, who
 • has, in a peculiar manner, declared him-
 • self the guardian of the widow and the
 • fatherless.

• I answer'd, that the cruel thought of my
 • husband's falling into the hands of merci-
 • less pyrates, was more insupportable to
 • me, than if I had follow'd him to his
 • grave. He then said, by letters received
 • from Jamiaca, he was assured Mr.
 • Minter died of a calenture before the
 • ship was taken. This intelligence, which
 • at any other time would have given me
 • the most piercing uneasiness, at this junc-
 • ture afforded some alleviation to my sor-
 • row; and I consider'd my dear husband
 • no longer as a slave to barbarians, but as
 • one freed from the calamities of this tur-
 • bulent world, and happy in the peace-
 • able

‘ able enjoyments of a better. This reflection, added to the pious and judicious discourses of my good friend the divine, enabled me to bear up under this trying affliction.

‘ My sisters had kept up a correspondence with me from the time I married; and as Mr. Minter had been so generous, at my mother’s decease, to bestow the dividend that fell to my share, equally amongst them; they behaved with civility to me during my prosperity: but as soon as they were acquainted with my adverse fortune, they wrote to me, and told me they were concern’d my husband should so mistake his circumstances, though they always thought they were by no means so considerable as he represented; and were surpriz’d, a woman of my *sense* should be so deceived; that I ought to be thankful heaven had provided for him, by taking him out of the world; and they did not doubt, but my *wit* would find out a way to maintain myself and child. For their
‘ parts,

‘ parts, they had been too prudent to en-
 ‘ gage in a married state; and had laid
 ‘ out their money in annuities, which en-
 ‘ abled them to live comfortably, but was
 ‘ not sufficient to supply the extravagancies
 ‘ of other folks; and concluded with
 ‘ saying, if a guinea would do me any
 ‘ service, I might send for it, but their
 ‘ income would not allow them to do more
 ‘ for me.’

‘ This letter was far from abating my
 ‘ grief: however, it roused me, and made
 ‘ me consider by what means I could earn
 ‘ my bread. The money I had by me,
 ‘ was not sufficient to set me up in my
 ‘ business, and I was too far advanced in
 ‘ life to become a journey woman. Whilst
 ‘ I was wholly undetermined what method
 ‘ to pursue, I received a visit from coun-
 ‘ sellor Samber, who had been acquainted
 ‘ with my husband, and being by my
 ‘ friend the clergyman inform’d of my dis-
 ‘ tress, came to tell me his house keeper had
 ‘ left him, and if I would accept of her
 ‘ place, he would take me into his family.
 ‘ I

‘ I thankfully accepted this kind proposal,
‘ and lived with him in that capacity four
‘ years, when he offer’d to hire this
‘ house, and advance me a sum of
‘ money to purchase furniture, if I thought
‘ it would be more advantageous to take
‘ lodgers. Accordingly I came here, and
‘ he is so kind to recommend his acquaint-
‘ tance to me. I have been in this way
‘ of life two years; my daughter has
‘ worked for a sempstress ever since our
‘ misfortunes, and we live very comfort-
‘ ably.’

Miss Wellers observing Mrs. Minter was silent, return’d her thanks for this recital, highly applauding the christian fortitude with which she had supported such grievous trials. Then told her she was impatient to see Miss Minter. This chapter is run to too great a length to trouble the reader with any more of these ladies conversation at this time. I therefore shall close it, and pass on to another, in which neither of them shall speak a syllable.

C H A P. X.

Contains battle the first.

HAVING conducted Miss Wellers to a place of safety, we will return, and take a view of what passed at her late lodgings after her departure. She had not quitted them above an hour, when Sir Harry Wilsmore and Revel enter'd, and was soon inform'd by the fictitious Mrs. Brown of what had happened, and that the pretended Mrs. Hartwell left the house in great wrath, swearing Sir Harry had bilk'd her, and carried the lady to some other house, though there was ne'er a one in town so proper to receive her, and cure her of her squeamish maggots.

This relation put the baronet into a violent passion; and unsheathing his sword, he vowed to be the death of Revel, for carelessly deserting his post, and suffering his charge to escape.

The

The poor wretch fell on his knees, and deprecated his anger, protesting he never suspected the least danger of such a surprize; and if Sir Harry would spare his life, it should be entirely devoted to his service; that he would traverse the globe in search of the lady, and did not doubt but by his vigilance not only to discover her retreat, but to bring her to him.

‘ No,’ answer’d the baronet, ‘ I disclaim
‘ all commerce with you for the future;
‘ I always despised you, and nothing but
‘ the hopes of making you subservient to
‘ my looser pleasures, could have made me
‘ condescend to converse with a wretch,
‘ whom I regard as the very outcast and
‘ disgrace of our species!—Take your
‘ life—I cannot inflict a severer punishment
‘ than permit you to keep it. It was
‘ you, and that devil in the form of a
‘ woman, that would have instigated me
‘ to an attempt that must have branded
‘ me to eternity, and lost me the favour
‘ of that angelic creature, whom I adore
‘ more

‘ more than ever, and whose virtue I re-
 ‘ vere, though it is an obstacle to my hap-
 ‘ piness. Go, take your abandon’d com-
 ‘ panion with you, and never more pre-
 ‘ sume to come into my presence.’

Revel pleaded hard to be continued in his favour ; at least, that Sir Harry wou’d be so generous as to bestow something upon him, for the trouble he had been at. To which the baronet reply’d, ‘ I shall
 ‘ defray the expence of these lodgings,
 ‘ and all you have been at upon my ac-
 ‘ count ; but as to any further gratuity,
 ‘ you deserve none, and shall receive none.’ So saying, he flung himself out of the house, leaving Revel and his mistress in the greatest amazement and vexation.

They spent some time in mutual up-
 braidings, on the score of carelessness : and having vented many dreadful oaths and imprecations, fell to blows ; at which the woman was very expert, and directed hers with such force and dexterity, that her keeper was obliged to cry quarter, which
 after

after a smart altercation was granted him : and they packed up their awls, and made for the country with all speed.

It is now time to return to Mrs. Goodall, who on the receipt of Mr. Godfrey's letter, dispatched her steward to Stamford, to enquire after Mr. and Mrs. Brown. At his return, he inform'd her that Mrs. Sterns knew nothing of the arrival of Mrs. Brown, nor had she wrote, or received a letter from her, since the ladies called at her house. This account added to the good lady's uneasiness, who condemn'd herself for suffering Miss Wellers to depart before she had sent to Stamford.

She had an assurance from Mr. Godfrey, of having intelligence of the young lady, as soon as he could discover where she was ; but as it was uncertain whether he would be able to trace her out, and if he did, whether his assistance might not come too late, she remained in the most perplexing situation, and sent Stedman immediately to town, to be at hand to assist Mr. Godfrey.

That

That gentleman having rescued the lady, sent an express with the agreeable news to her kind guardian, the very night he had lodged her safe at Mrs. Minter's. This account afforded great ease to Mrs. Goodall, who set out for London in two days after.

Having mention'd her intentions of going, before Jack Shooter, he begg'd leave to accompany her, saying, 'I have purposed to see London a long time, but my mother never wou'd let me when she was alive. And I han't met with a good opportunity since I was my own man. And I should like to go when you are there, as I can now and then go to your house.'

Mrs. Goodall told him, he should be very welcome to an apartment in her house, if he pleas'd. To which he reply'd, 'No, no, I shall but dirt your rooms, and be troublesome; however, I thank you for your courteous offer: No, I purpose to

‘ board at some lodging the small time I
 ‘ shall tarry there; and I make account
 ‘ to get the young counsellor to recom-
 ‘ mend me to a place.’

Mrs. Goodall had now the satisfaction to receive a letter from her ward, as had likewise Miss Burton; but, to the latter, she made no mention of Sir Harry's deception, and only told her she proposed going to Mrs. Goodall's, when she arrived in town, and begg'd to hear from her by that lady.

C H A P. XI.

In which the reader may find remarks on
a theatrical entertainment. Not critical.

MISS Wellers had been three days with Mrs. Minter, without seeing her daughter; but in the morning of the fourth, that gentlewoman introduced a very pretty fine-shap'd genteel young woman, into her apartment. Miss Wellers rose to receive her, and being inform'd the stranger was Miss Minter, saluted her with great respect, and treated her with all the affability imaginable.

Upon entering into conversation with her new acquaintance, Miss Wellers perceived Miss Minter was no less indebted to nature for the beauties of the mind than for those of the person. Whilst she was engaged with this amiable young woman, her landlady came to acquaint her with Mrs. Goodall's arrival, who immediately enter'd the room, attended by Mr. Godfrey.

The sight of her dear guardian occasion'd such a transport in the mind of the young lady, that she could no otherwise express her joy than by hanging over her neck in silence. Their tears flowed mutually; and after a scene of the tenderest kind, Mrs. Goodall propos'd to Miss Wellers to take her home with her; which she agreed to with great satisfaction. But before she left Mrs. Minter, she recommended her and her daughter to Mrs. Goodall's notice, who bestow'd many thanks, and a handsome gratuity upon them, for their kind treatment of her ward, giving them a pressing invitation to her house; and desiring they might be no longer strangers, she and Miss Wellers bid adieu to this family.

When the ladies arriv'd safe in Albemarle-street, they pass'd the evening in discoursing on the troubles the younger had been rescued from, and in returning thanks to heaven for her escape.

Next

Next morning, Jack Shooter came with Mr. Godfrey, to pay his respects to Miss Lucy, and very cordially enquired after Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who, he said, were very civil honest sort of folks. Miss Wellers answer'd, they were not in town at this time, having been desired by Mrs. Goodall to make no mention of that affair to the squire.

The ladies asked him how he liked the town, and where he lodged? He reply'd, 'Nay, I han't had time to turn myself about yet; but I lodge at one Mrs. Minter's, where Mr. Godfrey recommended me: I have no fault to find with the house, but only I could not sleep, by reason the coaches made such a rattling under my windows; and then, the watchman he scared me, by bouncing at the door. My man Joshua told me, when he brought up my shoes, that he counted there was a fair to-day, there was so many folks moving about the streets.'

Then turning to Mr. Godfrey, ‘Come counsellor,’ continued Jack, ‘you promised to shew me about.’ He answer’d, ‘I am ready to attend you, Mr. Shooter.’ Mrs. Goodall told them she should expect them to dinner at four o’clock. About which hour they return’d, the squire declaring he was almost famish’d, and the lawyer that he was quite weary.

After dinner, the ladies asked Mr. Shooter where had been, and what he had seen?

He reply’d, ‘I have been I know not where, and seen I know not what; but first and foremost, we went to King George’s stables.’

‘Oh, the Mews!’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘Ay, you have hit on’t; that was the place: and I could have staid there till this time, for I never saw nobler beasts in my born days! and I purpose to go again;

‘ again; for one of the men that look’d
 ‘ after ’em told me, when I gave him
 ‘ half a crown, that my honour was wel-
 ‘ come to come whenever I would. I
 ‘ thank’d him, but told him I had no
 ‘ title; for I count he took me for a lord,
 ‘ or an earl at least. Then we went to
 ‘ Westminster Abbey.’

‘ And how did you like that?’ said Mrs.
 ‘ Goodall.

‘ Why, there is a power of fine monu-
 ‘ ments; and three or four figures in wax-
 ‘ work, that put me in mind of a *puppy*
 ‘ *show*. Then the man with a long stick
 ‘ in his hand, pointed to the *statute* of a
 ‘ woman that was kill’d by her needle; and
 ‘ I must needs say, I was glad to see there
 ‘ was once a good housewife in London.
 ‘ Then, he show’d me a king without a
 ‘ head. I thought at first, it might be
 ‘ king Charles; but the man said, when
 ‘ he was laid there first he had a silver one,
 ‘ but somebody stole it away; why then
 ‘ said I, whoever stole it, I warrant had a
 ‘ brazen

‘ brazen face. So the man, and the coun-
‘ sellor here, fell a laughing.—Well! I
‘ set myself down in the *crownation* chair,
‘ and the man pray’d me to pay my forfeit.
‘ Why, said I, if ’tis the custom I’ll do’t,
‘ though to my thinking, I never *set* in a
‘ homelier uneasy seat in my life. They
‘ showed me a power of marble figures,
‘ but I did not mind any on ’em but
‘ Shakespear, because I had seen that *afore*,
‘ in Dr. Wright’s study. I grew quite
‘ tired, and desired Mr. Godfrey would
‘ come away; for ’tis a dismal place, and
‘ I did not like it half so well as the Mews.
‘ Well, then we went into St. James’s
‘ Park.’

‘ And what did you see there?’ said
‘ Miss Wellers.’

‘ Why, I see ladies, and ducks, and
‘ trees, and soldiers, and two or three
‘ handsome houses, one on ’em that stands
‘ at the end of the walk, I thought King
‘ George lived in; but the lawyer here,
‘ told me I was mistaken, for his house
‘ was

‘ was a little a to’ther side. So I took a turn:
 ‘ and look’d at the pond. I would fain
 ‘ have step’d and look’d at the Tower, and
 ‘ the Monument; but the counsellor was
 ‘ weary, and I believe wanted his dinner.’

‘ Well, but,’ said one of the ladies,
 ‘ How did you like the company you saw
 ‘ in the park? I don’t know;’—answer’d
 the squire, ‘ I don’t think they were
 ‘ mannerly; for when I pulled off my hat,
 ‘ and made as handsome a bow as I could,
 ‘ to the gentlemen as I pass’d by ’em, in-
 ‘ stead of returning it, they cocked their
 ‘ hats in my face, and fell a laughing:
 ‘ ’heart! I thought they had had better
 ‘ breeding: and some on ’em had such
 ‘ smock faces, and were so bepowder’d, that
 ‘ to my thinking, they look’d more like
 ‘ women than men. And the ladies too
 ‘ did not seem a bit more civil, though
 ‘ some on ’em were handsome enough, for
 ‘ what I see on ’em; more especially two
 ‘ young gentlewomen with hats, that
 ‘ look’d like as if they had stole skimming
 ‘ dishes out of a dairy; one on ’em, a
 G 5 ‘ skinny

‘ skinny spindle-shank’d beau was talking
‘ to, who, they said, was a duke ; I must
‘ needs say, I thought he was something
‘ extraordinary, for, instead of curls, he
‘ had got blue-paper round his head.’

After some farther discourse, Mrs. Goodall propos’d that the gentlemen should attend her and Miss Wellers to the play, as *Romeo and Juliet* was that night to be acted.

It afforded Mr. Godfrey and the ladies great diversion, to hear honest Jack’s remarks on that excellent performance. He seem’d much pleas’d with that merry fellow, as he call’d *Mercutio*, and commend’d *Romeo* for not standing shilly shally, but breaking his mind at once to his sweetheart :—was delighted with the conversation he held with *Juliet* from her chamber window ; when *Romeo* mention’d his passion to the friar, said he, ‘ I never saw
‘ a poor fellow so cut up in my life.’ At the mention of the cord ladder, he jogg’d Mr. Godfrey, and whisper’d, ‘ Now, there

‘ I

‘ I think the gentleman is to blame ; if I was
 ‘ he I would tarry a while, and not venture
 ‘ my neck about the young-woman.’—At
 Mercutio’s death he was sadly disturb’d,
 and said, ’twas pity such a clever fellow
 should lose his life in a quarrel, which by
 what he could understand, was begun long
 ago ; adding, it was the part of a christian
 to forget and forgive : all along observ-
 ing, it was a foolish thing for parents to be
 so cross ; and he did not question but they
 wou’d repent on’t. When they were mar-
 ried, Jack protested he wished them happy
 with all his heart ; because they seem’d
 so much in earnest, and had such a value
 for one another. At the funeral processi-
 on, he look’d extremely solemn, and wish-
 ed himself away, for he did not like it by
 any manner of means ; ’twas for all the
 world like a burial. When he observed
 Romeo’s affliction, at the news of Juliet’s
 death, he vented a deep sigh, and said, in
 a whisper, it grieved him to the heart,
 to find that bald-pated fellow had been
 so careless about the letter ; for the young

gentleman seem'd so grieved, he question'd whether he wou'd ever get over it. Then blamed the *skinny* apothecary for selling poison.—The meeting between the lovers amongst the tombs, shocked him prodigiously, and he burst into tears. However, recovering himself, and wiping them away, he said, he was ashamed to behave so like a boy, but indeed he must needs say, he was vex'd for the young couple. Mr. Godfrey assured him there required no apology for discovering so laudable and humane a disposition; that the heart, devoid of such tender sensations, deserved the epithet of stubborn rather than manly.

At the entertainment, Jack's features brightned up; and he laugh'd heartily at the agility of Harlequin and Columbine; tho' he declar'd, it seem'd to him to be all *witchcraft*. After the play, the gentlemen return'd with Mrs. Goodall to supper; and when they took their leave, the squire received an invitation from that lady, of passing what time he could spare at her house.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

Contains a private interview between Mr. Godfrey and Mrs. Goodall.

THE morning after the ladies had been at the play, Mr. Godfrey came alone to visit Mrs. Goodall, and begg'd her to favour him with a private audience. Upon which he was admitted into her dressing-room: where she expressed the grateful sense she had of his extraordinary vigilance in the release of Miss Wellers, and discoursed some time on that subject; when he blushing, confess'd his heart was too much interested in all that related to that young lady, to suffer him to plead any merit in what he had done.

‘ I have, madam,’ continued he, ‘ from
‘ the time I had first the honour of her ac-
‘ quaintance, cherished a sincere affection
‘ for Miss Wellers; but being conscious
‘ my slender fortune was by no means ade-
‘ quate to her merit, I have forbore ac-
‘ quainting

‘quainting her with my sentiments. But
‘now I perceive I have so formidable a
‘rival as Sir Harry Wilsmore, I can no
‘longer conceal them. I think the ami-
‘able object of my wishes, must observe
‘the passion she has inspired me with,
‘and that prudential reasons have hitherto
‘kept me from making an open declara-
‘tion of it. I have indeed but one hun-
‘dred pounds a year, in estate, which my
‘father settled upon me, and put into
‘trustees hands when he left England :
‘but I have been so fortunate to fall into
‘more practice than I could expect ; and
‘I hope, madam, if Miss Wellers should
‘approve of, and you consent to my pro-
‘posals, I shall be able to support her,
‘in an easy, though not in an affluent
‘state. I would not mention my inclina-
‘tions to her, till I knew your senti-
‘ments ; and I shall be more concern’d
‘than surprized, if they should not be fa-
‘vourable to my hopes.’

Mrs. Goodall reply’d, ‘Your character
‘and profession, Mr. Godfrey, might en-
‘title

' title you to a more considerable alliance
 ' in point of fortune; for doubtless, you
 ' have been inform'd; that Miss Wellers
 ' is much less indebted to that, than her
 ' merit and birth might expect: I wish I
 ' could supply that deficiency; but my
 ' circumstances are so limited, that my
 ' power falls far short of my will, in this
 ' particular. What I can do for her I will,
 ' as I am certain she is so good an œcono-
 ' mist, that that little will improve into
 ' something, by her management. I have
 ' no objection to your proposal, Sir; and
 ' provided it meets with the approbation
 ' of Miss Wellers and Mr. Samber, I shall
 ' with great satisfaction resign her to so
 ' worthy an husband.'

Mr. Godfrey having return'd her
 thanks for the obliging expressions she had
 utter'd in his favour, told her, he would
 mention the affair to Mr. Samber imme-
 diately, who he believed would find no-
 thing to object against the lady.

' Well,' answer'd Mrs. Goodall, ' I
 ' have too good an opinion of the pru-
 ' dence

‘ dence of you both, to imagine you would
‘ engage in the marriage state, before your
‘ circumstances are such as you think will
‘ defray the expences attending it: if you
‘ have computed them, and find your in-
‘ come equal to them, I will make the pro-
‘ position to Miss Wellers directly.’

He reply’d, ‘ I have made the estimate
‘ you advise, madam, and think with oeco-
‘ nomy we may live in a tolerable genteel
‘ manner. But I will consult with Mr.
‘ Samber to-day, and acquaint you with
‘ his opinion. In the mean time, if you
‘ will be so good to sound the young lady’s
‘ inclinations with regard to me, it will be
‘ adding greatly to the favours I have
‘ already received from you.’

Mrs. Goodall assured him she would
do as he desired: and he left her, in order
to consult the counsellor. Finding him
alone at his return, Mr. Godfrey open’d
the cause, and desired his permission to
prosecute it, as the future happiness of his
life depended upon the event.

Mr.

Mr. Samber, having attentively listened to the overflowings of his enamour'd heart, answer'd, ' Your conduct, my dear Charles, upon this, and every other occasion, is a convincing proof of your gratitude and respect to me ; but, though your obliging disposition makes you think it requisite to demand my consent, in an affair of this importance, I will not pretend to assume an authority which is peculiar to a parent ; my advice is much at your service, in the capacity of a friend ; and as such I should not hesitate one moment, to give it in favour of so virtuous and laudable a passion as you have acknowledged ; but though I am sincerely interested in the success of every expedient that can contribute to your happiness, there is a person in the world more nearly concern'd in it than I, and that is your good mother, who I am inform'd is still living, and married again, abroad.'

' How, Sir!' interrupted Mr. Godfrey, ' am I so happy as to have a parent living?'

ing? and could you be so cruel to deprive me of the satisfaction such an information must afford me?

‘ Be not too hasty in your conjectures,’ reply’d the counsellor, ‘ I concealed nothing from you but what was a secret to myself, till within these few hours; when I accidentally heard what I have told you, but could not learn who, or what, her present husband is, only that she had a design of returning to England in the spring. However, lest any thing should retard her voyage, I propose to write to a person I formerly knew in those parts, to enquire her out by the name of Godfrey, and to inform her of your health and welfare. ’Tis very probable we may hear of her, if we do not see her, by the ships which are expected in the spring. And therefore, if I might advise, you should defer the affair you mention, till you can have her concurrence. Not that I think she can have any objection to your choice; but I believe

‘ lieve you will think it incumbent on you
 ‘ to acquaint her with your intentions.’

The joy Mr. Godfrey felt, at hearing news of a parent who had been thought dead for twelve years, was somewhat allay’d, by the uncertainty he was in whether she would approve his passion. In no small perplexity he return’d to Mrs. Goodall, and inform’d her of what had pass’d between Mr. Samber and him. That good lady approved of the counsellor’s advice, as to waiting till the time he might expect to see his mother. She assured him, in that interval no endeavours should be wanting on her part, to inspire her ward with a due sense of his merit; ‘ though,’ continued she, ‘ the whole tenor of your
 ‘ behaviour has been such, as will leave
 ‘ me little to do on that head; for Miss
 ‘ Wellers appears to have a very great
 ‘ esteem for you, and I believe I may venture to affirm, you have no rival in her
 ‘ favour.’

Mr. Godfrey express’d some fears, lest Sir Harry Willmore should prove one.
 But

But she answer'd, ' You may be perfectly
' easy on that score : it is improbable that
' a young woman of her disposition should
' ever regard a man who has made such
' impudent attempts : besides, I fancy my
' nephew has met with disappointments
' sufficient to extinguish a passion such as
' his ; and will, I dare say, no more trouble
' her with it.'

Having unburthen'd his mind to this lady, Mr. Godfrey desired to speak with Miss Wellers, to whom he imparted his design of setting out for Mr. Willit's next day ; and taking a respectful farewell, he departed, recommending Mr. Shooter to the care of an acquaintance, who engaged to usher him about the town in his absence.

After Mr. Godfrey was gone, Mrs. Goodall enter'd into a conversation with Miss Wellers, on the subject of her escape ; and asked her if she never, in her own mind, imputed the actions of her deliverer to some motive superior to mere friendship ?

The

The young lady blushed, and reply'd, Mr. Godfrey's behaviour left her no room to doubt of his esteem ; but, as to what Mrs. Goodall hinted at, he had never mention'd a word to her that could lead her to suppose he was any way interested in what concern'd her, more than as a friend who had wished her well.

‘ Perhaps so,’ (said the elder lady) ‘ yet I cannot help thinking he sometimes regards you with the eye of a lover : suppose that should really be the case, how would you receive a declaration of that nature from him ?’

‘ He has never made me any such,’ answer'd Miss Wellers.

‘ I don't imagine he has,’ (return'd her guardian) ‘ and perhaps never may ; yet, it is possible he may have such intentions ; and I ask you, if he has, how you would behave on such an occasion ? Could you like him well enough to marry him, if he was to make such an offer ?’

‘ Madam,’

‘ Madam,’ (reply’d the young lady) ‘ if
‘ he was to make such a proposal to me,
‘ I have so good an opinion of him, that—
‘ that—I—a—with your leave, I believe
‘ I—a—I—should accept it. But what
‘ reason have you, madam, to surmise
‘ such a thing?’

‘ Nay, my dear,’ (answer’d Mrs. Goodall)
‘ ’tis natural, where two persons of differ-
‘ ent sexes have contracted an intimacy,
‘ at your time of life, to imagine love is
‘ either the cause, or the effect. But, as
‘ you say Mr. Godfrey has given you no
‘ hint of such a design, I may be mistaken
‘ in my conjectures.’

The ladies were interrupted in this part of their discourse by a servant, who came to inform his lady, that a person who said he came upon urgent business from Sir Harry Wilsmore, desired to speak with her. At the mention of the baronet, Miss Wellers seem’d greatly confused: her good guardian begg’d she would not be alarm’d,
for

LUCY WELLERS. 143

for she would not stir from her. The messenger was order'd to come into the room, who deliver'd a letter to Mrs. Goodall, saying, ' Sir Harry Wilshire ' commanded me to give this into your ' own hand, madam, and to call for an ' answer to-morrow ;' then made his bows and his exit.

And now, gentle reader, I am in hopes you are no less impatient to peruse the baronet's letter than Mrs. Goodall was, because you will have your curiosity gratified in some part of the next book.

for he would not let him for-
midnight was ordered to come into the
room, who delivered a letter to Miss
Goodell, saying, 'Sir Harry Williams
' commended me to give this into your
' own hands, Madam, and to call for me
' to-morrow; then he bowed and
and his exit.

And now, gentle reader, I am in hopes
you are no less impatient to peruse the pa-
rent's letter than Miss Goodell was. Be-
cause you will have your curiosity gratified
in some part of the next book.

THE
HISTORY
OF
LUCY WELLERS.

BOOK IV.

CHAP. I.

In which Mr. Broughton's Amphitheatre is mention'd with great reverence ; and the attending it shown to be highly improving.

NO sooner was the messenger gone, who delivered Sir Harry's letter to Mrs. Goodall, than she open'd it, and found it indited in a very penitential stile, professing his concern for having

VOL. II.

H

acted

acted in the dishonourable manner he had done to Miss Wellers; that he was ready to make that lady any reparation in his power; and that she could not look on his base attempts in a worse light than they now appear'd to him. He earnestly implored her pardon for his past conduct, and declared that his future should be governed by the strictest rules of virtue and honour; begg'd Mrs. Goodall's permission to wait upon her, and that she would give him leave to make Miss Wellers an offer of his hand and fortune, on the most honourable terms; protesting the refusal of this request would not only render him the most miserable of mortals, but drive him to desperation: for he was no less enamour'd of her transcendent virtue and good sense, than of her exterior qualifications.

He desired she would vouchsafe to communicate the contents of this epistle to the lady: and conjured her by the regard she bore to the memory of his deceased mother, and by the affection he had himself
expe-

experienced from her before this fatal slip, that she would not oppose his ardent desire of being united to Miss Wellers by the indissoluble tie.

He said, he had order'd his messenger not to call for an answer till next day, as he hoped she would consider by that time of his request ; and that, in her reply, she would let him know whether he might be permitted in person, to plead his cause before the lady.

This was the purport of the baronet's letter, which having several times perused, Mrs. Goodall delivered to Miss Wellers, saying, ' My dear, you will there see my
' nephew's determination, in regard to
' you. I desire you would well weigh the
' contents of this, and then acquaint me
' with your opinion of Sir Harry's pro-
' position. I will only add, that I really
' believe his repentance is sincere, and that
' he wishes for no greater blessing than to
' make you his wife. But I will not pre-
' tend to byass your inclinations. You

‘are well acquainted with his person and
‘accomplishments. I assure you, his
‘estate is more than four thousand pounds
‘a year; and it is very plain he loves you
‘with excess of passion. I leave you there-
‘fore to reflect upon all this before you
‘return me an answer.’

Mrs. Goodall then quitted the room, and Miss Wellers perused the letter very attentively. The baronet’s proposition was a tempting one to a young person circumstanced as she was; and seem’d to offer a state of affluence, far beyond her most sanguine expectations. She was for some time engaged in considering the advantages accruing from such a match. Here was a large fortune, a title, and what the world esteems a fine gentleman, courting her acceptance on terms which virtue did not forbid. Yet, did not all these allurements prevent her from reflecting on the ignominious treatment she had received from the proposer. She considered, that the affections of a heart so accustomed to deceit, and so enslaved by violent passions, could never

never be expected to fix on any one object for a long time; and consequently did not merit such a return as she should be inclined to make to the man whose name she should wear.

She imagined, he might be willing, in the present gust of his passion, to make her his wife; but, as his whole conduct on this occasion, had proved that her person alone had excited that passion; (which reflection to a young lady of her delicacy, afforded no favourable idea of it) she reflected of how short a duration that affection must be which was built on so precarious a foundation. His own sentiments, which she was acquainted with from his letter to his friend Frank, recurred to her mind, and served to confirm her in her opinion, that if he should grow cool, which was to be expected, not only from the nature of his passion, but also from a hint in that letter, he might impute her resistance formerly, to mercenary motives, and call it a stratagem to draw him into a marriage.

This thought was insupportable to her ; and her understanding suggested, that in that case she must lead a life of misery, for which no fortune, however affluent, could compensate. She then called to mind Mrs. Goodall's surmizes, in regard to Mr. Godfrey ; and if they should prove true, thought there was a much fairer prospect of happiness with a man of his morals and character, though his circumstances were so far inferior to those of the baronet. And should her guardian be mistaken in her conjectures, she led a very easy life where she was, and had an assurance from Mrs. Goodall, of a provision during her life, and of some little fortune at her death, that she thought, with œconomy, might support her with peace of mind, which she preferred to a splendid outside, and a heart full of misery.

Being come to a resolution what part she would act, she desired Mrs. Goodall to inform Sir Harry Wilsmore, that she forgave the attempts he had made towards her
ruin,

ruin, but must reject his offer of marriage, for reasons which she did not chuse to acquaint him with, though she did not conceal them from her guardian; who at first seemed surpriz'd, yet acknowledged the justice of them, and that her nephew deserved such a punishment as this refusal must inflict.

She then asked Miss Wellers, if she would receive the visit he proposed to make? She reply'd, ' If you insist on it, ' madam, I will, as Sir Harry is so nearly ' allied to you; but I must own, I had ' much rather be excused.'

' I am obliged to you, my dear,' answer'd Mrs. Goodall, ' but do not desire ' you should carry your complaisance so ' far. I will not forbid his coming, but ' will take no notice of that part of his ' letter.'

The appearance of Mr. Shooter, put an end to their conversation on this subject. Jack, on his entrance, called out, ' Sheart!

‘ I have no opinion of this city, ’tis made
‘ up of cheats, I think !’

‘ What’s the matter, Mr. Shooter, what
‘ has made you so angry ?’ said Mrs. Good-
all.

‘ Nay, I an’t angry, not I,’ answer’d
he ‘ though I must needs say, I am con-
‘ founded mad.’

‘ At what, pray ?’ demanded Miss
Wellers.

‘ Why, I went to-day to Mr. Broughton’s
‘ stage, to see a little boxing, (I always lov-
‘ ed that sport ever since I was a lad) so,
‘ while I was looking on Slack, and the to-
‘ ther fellow, a fine well-dress’d well-spoken
‘ man came up to me, “ Sir, said he, Your
“ most obedient servant : though I have
“ not the honour of your acquaintance, I
“ presume, by your appearance, you are a
“ gentleman and a stranger, and I honour
“ all such. Will you do me the favour
“ of accompanying me to dinner, at Pon-
“ tack’s,

“ tacks, where I am to meet a brace of
 “ friends, and we shall be glad of a fourth
 “ man ?” Hearing him speak so handsome-
 “ ly, and as he looked, to my thinking,
 “ such a gentleman-like honest man, in the
 “ face, I answer’d : Sir, said I, I am a
 “ stranger, and a gentleman, as you are
 “ pleased to say :—I have got a pretty tight
 “ estate in my own country ; and since you
 “ are so civil to ask my company, I don’t
 “ care if I do accept your kind offer. So,
 “ I made no more ado, but as soon as the
 “ battle was over, I was going along with
 “ him to the tavern ; when I meets the
 “ young counsellor that Mr. Godfrey re-
 “ commended to my acquaintance ; and he
 “ perceiving I was in earnest talk with the
 “ stranger, comes up, and desired to speak
 “ a word with me : he took me a little a-
 “ to’side, and asked me how I came to
 “ know that fellow ; and prayed me by all
 “ means not to go with him, for if I did,
 “ I should repent on’t. So, I thinking he had
 “ some cause for what he said, went back
 “ to the stranger, who stopt for me, and
 “ told him I had a little business, and could

‘ not dine with him that day. So, he
‘ said he was sorry, and hoped he should
‘ meet me when I was more at leisure.
‘ I then took a walk into St. James’s park,
‘ with Mr. Godfrey’s friend: and I asked
‘ him, why he wished me not to go with
‘ the stranger? Because, said he, that fel-
‘ low is a notorious sharper, and would
‘ have drawn you into some scrape, by
‘ gaming or other means: he gets his
‘ bread by inveigling young unexperienc’d
‘ gentlemen. His character is too well
‘ known to deceive any one who has the
‘ least acquaintance with the town; but
‘ perceiving you were a stranger, he spread
‘ his snares, in which I find you would
‘ have been caught, if I had not luckily
‘ met you. ‘Sheart! said I, who would
‘ have thought of such tricks? Why,
‘ said he, if you had gone with that gamb-
‘ ler, I am persuaded your dinner would
‘ have cost you at least all the cash you
‘ had about you, and perhaps much more.
‘ I was quite *set* at this account; how-
‘ ever, I thank’d the young lawyer for
‘ letting me into the light on’t. For, I
‘ must

‘ must needs say, I had no cause to suspect
 ‘ the stranger was such a kind of man:
 ‘ more especially as I see him very fami-
 ‘ liarly shake several fine gentlemen by the
 ‘ hand, who, they told me, were some of
 ‘ the prime noblemen.’

‘ I congratulate you on your escape, Mr.
 ‘ Shooter,’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘ and must
 ‘ think it great pity, in a nation so re-
 ‘ nowned for the grandeur and opulence of
 ‘ its nobility, that persons of quality
 ‘ should condescend to admit such despi-
 ‘ cable wretches as professed gamblers to
 ‘ a share in their conversation, and coun-
 ‘ tenance them by the honour of their ac-
 ‘ quaintance.’

‘ Why, so I think, madam,’ answer’d
 Jack; ‘ if I was a lord, or a duke, I
 ‘ would not keep company with such ras-
 ‘ cals, if there was an honest companion
 ‘ to be found. But this an’t all the cheat-
 ‘ ing I have happen’d on.’

‘ What else have you met with?’ said
 Miss Wellers.

‘ Why, you must understand, after the
‘ young counsellor had told me about the
‘ gaming fellow, he left me in the Park ;
‘ so I was coming to my lodgings by my-
‘ self, and going by a house, I see some
‘ fine things about it, and a great many
‘ folks going to and fro ; so I asked what
‘ was a doing there, and they told me there
‘ was an auction : upon which, I went in
‘ among the rest ; and there was a deal of
‘ silver-plate, and pictures, and china,
‘ and other goods to be sold. I might
‘ indeed, have taken warning, by a fine
‘ gentleman that I see was cheated afore
‘ me, if I had not been a fool.’

‘ How do you know the gentleman was
‘ cheated ?’ demanded Mrs. Goodall.

‘ Why, you shall judge, madam,’ re-
ply’d the squire, ‘ there was an old *statute*
‘ of some king, that was broke too, put
‘ up, and this gentleman paid a handful of
‘ guineas for it ; though, to my thinking,
‘ it could be of no service, but to set up
‘ in a pea-field.’

‘ Well,

‘ Well, but,’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘ it was the gentleman’s own choice, I suppose ?’

‘ Yes, yes, no body forced it upon him, for there was a power bid against him : but some of the gentry had strange fancies, to be sure ; for when the picture of an ugly old man was put up, they bid as much for it as if it had been as handsome as the young gentlewomen that I see in the Park ; and yet he looked for all the world as if he was starved, a lean skinny creature ; they called him Don—somebody : Ay, *Don Scotchus*, that was the name on’t.’

‘ What did you purchase, Mr. Shooter ?’

‘ Why, there was a silver punch-bowl put up ; and I have always had an inkling for such a thing ; so, ’twas put up at five shillings ; so, I bid six, and somebody bid against me, till I bid eight, when the man knocked it down. I must
‘ needs

‘ needs say, I thought it dog cheap ; but
‘ when I went up to the man to pay the
‘ money, he told me it came to about
‘ thirty pound, at eight shillings an ounce.
‘ I perceived then that I was cheated ;
‘ however I could not help it, so I was
‘ fain to go to my lodgings for the money,
‘ and I have got my dear bargain home :
‘ though Mrs. Minter says ’tis a very
‘ handsome piece of plate.’

The ladies could not suppress their laughter at this recital ; but perceiving Jack looked a little grave upon it, they turn’d the conversation on the family where he lodged. He asked Mrs. Goodall many questions concerning his landlady, and that lady told him Mrs. Minter’s history, adding, she had a very high opinion of her, not only from her own observation, but from the character that Mr. Samber gave her.

Whilst they were upon this topic, the brazen knocker gave them to understand, that some visiter of consequence was arriv’d.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

Contains a word or two of news.

THE visitors that we left Mrs. Good-
all in expectation of, proved to be
Sir Andrew and lady Dumiel. Jack hav-
ing never seen them since their marriage,
thought it but manners to offer her lady-
ship a salute, which put her into the great-
est confusion.

The conversation, for the first half hour,
consisted of remarks on the last company
the baronet and his lady had been in. The
squire listen'd very attentively to several
genteel pieces of scandal that proceeded from
the lady, then broke out into, 'Sheart!
' if the folks are so bad as you say, I won-
' der, my lady, you would keep company
' with 'em: out of doubt, there are honest
' people you might visit, if so be you
' chose it.'

This reprimand from honest Jack, brought a blush into her ladyship's face, and a smile into Mrs. Goodall's.

Lady Dumiel then said, she had heard a piece of news that had put her into the vapours all the morning, concerning Frank Revel, the son of old Sir Andrew's steward.

‘What of him, pray?’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘The lady reply’d, ‘My woman informs me, that having a quarrel with a mistress that he kept, he shot himself through the head with a pistol, a few days ago.’

Miss Wellers, at this intelligence, burst into tears, which the Squire observing, said to her, ‘Don’t cry, Miss Lucy; though this gentleman is gone, there’s men enough in the world.’

She

She answer'd, her concern arose from the character she had heard of him, which made it to be feared he was not properly prepared for a sudden death; and the thought of his being his own executioner must aggravate the concern and pity of every thinking person, on the occasion.'

Lady Dumiel begg'd the subject might be drop'd, otherwise she should not be in spirits to attend lady Lurcher's rout, whither she was going.

Sir Andrew asked the ladies, if they had heard of Miss Searls's wedding? They answering in the negative, and desiring farther information concerning that affair, the baronet continued, ' Mr. Searls has parted with his daughter in a very extraordinary manner, 'pon my virtue. It seems, the lady always pretended a violent aversion to a gentleman, and so she has thought fit to run away with her father's coachman.'

' You

‘ You are not in earnest, sure, Sir
‘ Andrew !’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ ’Pon my veracity ! I am, madam ; it
‘ seems, the fellow she has married is bro-
‘ ther to one of my grooms, and so I came
‘ to know it.’

‘ Astonishing !’ said Miss Wellers.

‘ Why so ?’ answer’d lady Dumiel, ‘ she
‘ was always an indelicate creature ; and
‘ since I have heard the origin of that fa-
‘ mily, I am not surpris’d at any meanness
‘ they can be guilty of.’ Then turning to
the baronet, the lady continued, ‘ Sir An-
‘ drew, shall I set you down at lady Fid-
‘ get’s ; or will you go in your own chair ?’

‘ In my chair, if your ladyship pleases,
answer’d he, ‘ for jolting upon the pave-
‘ ment discomposes one’s dress in such a
‘ manner, that one is not fit to be seen.’

‘ Ay, that’s true,’ answer’d his lady, ‘ I
‘ abominate it : but could not avoid it to-
‘ day,

‘ day, as I have engaged to take Miss
‘ Bragg along with me.’

‘ If your ladyship is ready,’ said Sir Andrew, ‘ I’ll put you in the coach.’ Upon which this polite couple made their exit.

Jack following them, Mrs. Goodall and her young companion began a discourse on the fatal end of the unhappy Revel. The elder lady made many pious remarks on his fate; hoping, tho’ he had provoked the divine justice in this world, he would yet experience its mercy in the next; and that his last dreadful crime might be imputed to lunacy.

In the morning, Sir Harry Wilshire came to pay his devoirs to his aunt, with whom he had a long and serious conversation on the subject of his late behaviour, and present proposals, to Miss Wellers.

Mrs. Goodall expressed the concern his conduct had given her, in the most tender
and

and affectionate terms ; and he, far from attempting to vindicate it, confessed it was highly blameable, professed a sincere contrition for his fault, and begg'd he might be permitted to receive his doom from the mouth of Miss Wellers : upon which, that young lady was desired to walk into the room.

The baronet address'd her on his knees, and in a most humble and pathetic speech, supplicated her pardon, renewing the offer he had made in his letter to her guardian.

Miss Wellers desired him to be seated, and assured him she freely forgave what was pass'd ; ‘ but, Sir Harry, said she, I cannot accept the offer you are now pleased to make : if you had thought me worthy of that honour, before our interview in the dressing-room, I had then too good an opinion of you, to have refused it. But the very same cause to which you impute the change in your sentiments,
‘ in.

‘ in regard to me, has had a little effect
 ‘ on mine, with regard to you; for, as
 ‘ you thought it beneath you to offer
 ‘ marriage, when you first profess’d love
 ‘ to me; I now think, from the expe-
 ‘ rience I have had of your disposition, that
 ‘ such an alliance would render me very
 ‘ miserable: and therefore beg you would
 ‘ never more propose it; for I am fully
 ‘ determined never to consent to it, and
 ‘ wish you happy with some other.’

Sir Harry, excessively chagrin’d at her
 resolution, repeated his request, and made
 use of all his eloquence to induce her to
 recede from it. But finding it unavailing,
 and that she was inflexibly bent to oppose
 his desires, he remained some time silent.
 He then open’d his lips, to profess the un-
 easiness her refusal gave him; and to beg
 she would, at least, not banish him her pre-
 sence, but permit him to converse with
 her, for the future, on the footing of a com-
 mon acquaintance. Which request she
 complied with, after he had pawn’d his
 word

word and honour, never to mention the subjects of love and gallantry to her.

The baronet passed the day at Mrs. Goodall's, and never quitted the ladies till it was time for them to retire to their repose.

C H A P. III.

In which we hope to prove, that a lover may talk like a rational creature.

THE day after that, in which Sir Harry Wilsmore had received his final answer from Miss Wellers, Mr. Godfrey return'd from his friendly expedition, and waited on Miss Wellers, to acquaint her with his success. She was very impatient to know the state of her friend's affairs ; and desired he would give her a circumstantial detail of all that passed in his visit to Mr. Willit.

Upon which, he said ; ‘ I met with a genteel reception from the young gentleman, to whom I made no mention of my errand on the night I arrived ; but desired he would accompany me next morning to a neighbouring village, where I pretended to have business. As we were upon the road, I ask'd him if he knew Dr. Wright, of — shire, saying

‘ing I had passed some time this summer
‘in the village where he lived.

‘I observed he changed countenance,
‘when he answer’d, ‘I have some know-
‘ledge of the gentleman.’ ‘He has a niece’
(continued I) ‘a very agreeable woman,
‘with whom I was pretty intimate during
‘my stay.’ At this he blushed, and asked
‘if I was acquainted with Miss Burton?’
‘I reply’d, I thought myself very happy,
‘in being known to a person of her merit.’

‘Perhaps, said he, with a faltering
‘voice, you are a lover of hers, Charles.’

‘No,’ answer’d I, ‘I cannot pretend to
‘that honour, since she has very lately re-
‘jected the offer of a gentleman of a good
‘character, with an estate of six hundred
‘pounds a year; and declared to him, (as
‘he told me himself) that her heart was
‘pre-engaged.’

‘Did she say so?’ said he, (clearing up
his countenance) ‘She not only told him
‘so,

‘ so, reply’d I, but me, who conversed
 ‘ with her upon the subject. Her uncle
 ‘ and aunt were displeased at her refusing
 ‘ so advantageous an offer; as, they say,
 ‘ she has given her heart to a man, whose
 ‘ ill treatment of her render’d him very
 ‘ undeserving of it.’

‘ Ay!’ said Willit, ‘ How came they
 ‘ to assert such a thing?’

‘ They have their reasons, doubtless,
 ‘ answer’d I. I then started another topic,
 ‘ which he seem’d to give little heed to,
 ‘ and rode musing along in a pensive man-
 ‘ ner; at last, Dear Charles! (said he) do
 ‘ you think Miss Burton is of the same
 ‘ opinion of her uncle and aunt?’

‘ Methinks, reply’d I, that is a matter
 ‘ quite indifferent to us.’

‘ Why no, Charles, answer’d he, I will
 ‘ now confess, I am very nearly concern’d
 ‘ in this affair.’

‘ I could not help asking how that could
‘ be?’

‘ Upon which he related how he be-
‘ came first acquainted with Miss Burton ;
‘ and said, the impresson she had made
‘ upon his heart could never be erased.’

‘ I told him, if that was the case, I
‘ was surprized he should, by his long
‘ silence, give her reason to think other-
‘ wise.’

‘ I have, indeed, answer’d he, for-
‘ bore writing to her these eight months :
‘ but that is her own fault ; for though I
‘ wrote her the most tender and affectio-
‘ nate letter, immediately after my father’s
‘ rough one, in which I assured her of my
‘ constancy, spite of all opposition, and
‘ frequently hinted to her, reasons for not
‘ visiting her at present, as I hoped by
‘ that proof of my obedience to gain up-
‘ on my father, and in time to bring him
‘ to consent to my happiness ; yet, she
‘ never

‘ never favour’d me with one line in answer. So, I began to conclude, she had given over all thoughts of me, and preferred some happier man. This notion prevented me from continuing a fruitless correspondence with a person for whom I have the highest esteem.’

‘ Sir, reply’d I, I am very certain Miss Burton never received one line from you, after that cruel letter of your father’s : By what means did you convey those you mention ?’

‘ I entrusted a friend with them, answer’d he, who engaged to send them safe to her.’

‘ Then, reply’d I, that friend has deceiv’d you, and does not merit your confidence. I then own’d to him, that compassionating the uneasiness Miss Burton endured, on account of his silence, I undertook this journey, merely to have some conversation with him upon the occasion.’

‘ He was extremely thankful for the
 ‘ part I had acted: and at his desire, we
 ‘ alighted at an inn, where we spent the
 ‘ day. In which time I gave him all the
 ‘ information I could; and he wrote a long
 ‘ letter to Miss Burton, which I have un-
 ‘ dertaken to convey, and I must beg you
 ‘ to write to her and enclose it, and I will
 ‘ send it by an express to-morrow morn-
 ‘ ing.’

‘ Every time Mr. Willit and I were
 ‘ alone, he discoursed of the merit of his
 ‘ dear Nancy, and lamented the unac-
 ‘ countable aversion the old gentleman had
 ‘ to her; protesting he never should be
 ‘ happy without her: yet knew not how
 ‘ to act, as he was not in a capacity
 ‘ of providing for her, in the manner she
 ‘ deserved. He begg’d me to present his
 ‘ compliments to you; I having inform-
 ‘ ed him of the friendship that subsisted
 ‘ between Miss Burton and you.’

Mrs. Goodall now entring, Miss Wel-
 lers withdrew, to write to her friend in
 the

the country, whilst her good guardian acquainted Mr. Godfrey with what had pass'd during his absence. She had no sooner mention'd Sir Harry Wilsmore's offers to Miss Wellers, when, notwithstanding she assured him that her ward had absolutely rejected them, he seem'd a good deal confused, and told Mrs. Goodall, since Sir Harry had gone so far, he must beg her leave to acquaint Miss Wellers with his passion; saying, it was impossible to wait for his mother's approbation; and though he had a due sense of the duty he owed to her as a parent, yet as she had made no enquiry after him, he thought it would be no breach of it, to follow the dictates of his heart, and solicit a return of affection from the fair object that engrossed it.

Mrs. Goodall answer'd, ' I cannot pretend to usurp any authority over her inclinations, much less yours; you are at liberty, Sir, to pursue what method you think proper.' Miss Wellers return'd to deliver her letter to Mr. Godfrey, just as her guardian ended these words; who,

upon the entrance of her ward, left the room with a smile.

Mr. Godfrey then began, in a very modest manner, to inform Miss Wellers of the sentiments her merit had inspired him with. But, in this declaration, avoided all fulsome compliments to her person: and in describing the force and sincerity of the passion he professed, had recourse to no poetic raptures, or common-place metaphors; he mention'd not a word of dying for her, but protested he should think himself the happiest of mortals, if she would permit him to pass his life with her. He then related to her the conversation he had had with Mrs. Goodall on this subject, and gave her a true account of his circumstances.

She heard him with some little confusion; and answer'd, 'I am obliged to you, Sir, for the favourable opinion you have conceived of me; but as this is an affair of great moment, I beg you would allow me some time to consider of it. You
' may

‘ may be assur’d I will make no unnecessary delays, or keep you in suspense longer than is requisite to consult my friends, and my own heart. You deservedly possess a very high place in my esteem; but I desire you would leave me now, and pursue your kind intentions of forwarding this letter to Miss Burton.’ He promised obedience to her commands, and withdrew.

When he was gone, Mrs. Goodall told Miss Wellers, she guessed the topic Mr. Godfrey had been discoursing on, and said so much in his commendation, that the young lady made no scruple of acquainting her with their whole conversation; nor did she pretend to conceal her approbation of his sentiments. Mrs. Goodall advised her to be very unreserved and sincere to a lover of his merit, and not to keep him in pain for the result of his solicitations; and talked on this subject, till they bid each other adieu for that night.

I will not trouble my readers with my conjectures of what passed in the mind of

Miss Wellers, when she retired to rest. As she never communicated her reflections at that time, I cannot pretend to be so impertinent to dive into her thoughts, tho' from all her actions, one may suppose she need not be ashamed to have them divulged in this manner.

C H A P. IV.

Contains the history of an Oxfordshire toast.

THE next day the impatient lover of Miss Wellers came to wait on her; and though he was not so happy as to obtain a positive answer in favour of his pretensions, had the satisfaction to perceive she was not averse to them. Mrs. Goodall was observing to him, that Mr. Shooter had not been with her for some days, and expressing some surprize at his absence, when Jack enter'd. He had not been long seated, before he asked the ladies if they had any pity in their natures?

Mrs. Goodall, surpris'd at the question, gave him another in return, 'Why? Mr. Shooter.'

'Because,' answer'd he, 'if you have, you will do somewhat for a gentlewoman that I met just now.'

‘ Who is that?’ demanded the lady of the house.

‘ Why, I’ll tell you,’ reply’d the squire,
‘ I wanted a few things at a milliner’s shop;
‘ and while I was there, who should I see
‘ come in, but Mrs. Hope, that Dr.
‘ Wright spoke on some time ago? I
‘ thought I knew her face; so I follow-
‘ ed her out, and asked her her name,
‘ when she told me I was right in my guess.
‘ I enquired how she lived, and she said
‘ she worked at her needle for that shop,
‘ and that she should have done very well,
‘ though she had three children to main-
‘ tain, but they all had the small-pox
‘ lately, and she was forced to work hard,
‘ and almost starve herself, to pay the
‘ doctor’s bills. She said, she could not
‘ get her boy into the hospital, and did
‘ not know how to pay for his schooling;
‘ so that she was afraid he would be ruin’d
‘ for want of learning. She took on so,
‘ that I gave her a guinea, and promised
‘ to pay for the boy’s schooling; and if
‘ he

‘ he behaves handsome, and minds his
 ‘ book, I purpose to bind him prentice to
 ‘ somewhat, for I have crack’d many a
 ‘ bottle with honest Ned Hope, his fa-
 ‘ ther. And now, I desire you would do
 ‘ somewhat for her.’

The ladies promised they would.

‘ Then out with your purses,’ contri-
 nued Jack, ‘ for I am now a going to
 ‘ her.’

Upon which Mrs. Goodall gave him a
 guinea, Miss Wellers and Mr. Godfrey
 each of them half a one. Before he with-
 drew, he called Mr. Godfrey aside, and
 whisper’d in his ear.

The ladies, as soon as he was out of hear-
 ing, said to Mr. Godfrey, they fancied
 Jack had some other design in agitation;
 by all his behaviour. He answer’d, ‘ I be-
 ‘ lieve he has, but it must be a secret at
 ‘ present.’

Mr. Godfrey then took his leave, saying he was engaged to sup with Mr. Shooter.

Upon his retiring, Mrs. Goodall and Miss Wellers fell again on the topic of his proposals; when the young lady finding her guardian had no objection to them, determined to accept them; and the next interview she had with him, gave him that agreeable assurance. After some farther discourse, in which she acknowledged the esteem she had for him did not fall short of that he professed for her, he pressed her to accept his hand immediately; but she desired the ceremony might be deferred till the spring, as her guardian had told her it would be more agreeable to her.

With this delay he was forced to be content, for fear of disobliging that lady. However, they solemnly engaged themselves to each other; and now conversed as lovers that were soon to be united for life, as well in Mrs. Goodall's presence, as in
her

her absence. In one of these conversations they were informed Sir Harry Wilfmore was coming. Mrs. Goodall desired Mr. Godfrey would conceal the lover before him. She had but just time to give him this caution, before the baronet appear'd.

The conversation took a different turn, Sir Harry taking out his snuff-box, Mr. Godfrey begg'd a pinch, and fixing his eyes on a picture in the lid of it, said, 'I have seen a face resembling that picture.'

'It is very probable you may, Sir,' return'd the baronet, 'though I met with it by chance, and bought it as a random fancy of the painter's.'

'The lady it resembles,' said Mr. Godfrey, 'is a very deserving unfortunate woman. I believe, ladies, continued he, you have heard me mention an adventure I met with in my late journey.'

'No, really, Sir,' replied Mrs. Goodall, 'I never heard a syllable of it; and should be obliged to you if you would relate it.'

He

He comply'd with her request in the following manner: • Passing through a town
• in Staffordshire, I saw a one-horse chair
• overturn, in which was a grave looking
• clergyman, and a lady who seem'd to be
• about three or four and twenty. I went
• to their assistance, and found the gentleman had received no hurt, but the lady
• had broke her arm. We convey'd her
• to a house near at hand, and sent for a
• surgeon; but she insisting that her arm
• should not be set till she got home, a
• post-chaise was order'd, and I, at the
• gentleman's request, attended them to his
• house, which was but two miles distant.
• The lady shewed an heroic courage during the surgeon's operation.

• When I attended the clergyman into
• another room, I express'd my surprize at
• her behaviour. He sigh'd, and said,
• She was inured to misfortune, and adversity was a school in which the lessons
• of patience are frequently learned.'

• After

‘ After having express’d my concern
‘ for the accident, I asked if she was his
‘ daughter?’

‘ He reply’d, ‘ No, Sir, she boards in
‘ my family, and has done some time.’

‘ I presume,’ said I, ‘ she is a single
‘ lady.’

‘ Sir,’ answer’d he, ‘ she is, and she is
‘ not. To solve this seeming paradox, I
‘ will acquaint you with her story. She is
‘ the daughter of an eminent attorney,
‘ who lived near Oxford, and was reputed
‘ to be a man of wealth, till by his death
‘ he undeceived the world. It was then
‘ found, that he left no more than a bare
‘ maintenance for his widow and daughter.
‘ You may perceive she has beauty, and
‘ her father spared no expence in her edu-
‘ cation. She has a remarkable sweetness
‘ of disposition, and a mind adorned with
‘ every virtue. The charms of her per-
‘ son attracted the admiration of many,
‘ but

‘ but made a peculiar impresson on the
‘ fancy of a young gentleman, who was,
‘ or at least ought to have been, pursuing
‘ his studies, at the neighbouring univer-
‘ sity. This gentleman was not only
‘ form’d by nature to captivate the heart
‘ of a young unexperienced girl, but was
‘ heir to a large estate. Having a father
‘ living, he made that a pretence for being
‘ very private in his addresses to her; and
‘ though I have heard her say, from her
‘ first acquaintance with him, she found
‘ something more engaging in his converse,
‘ and amiable in his person, than she had
‘ ever observed in any that pretended to
‘ her heart; she treated him with a reserve
‘ that plainly inform’d him he could never
‘ expect to obtain her on terms inconsist-
‘ ent with honour. Having, by his assiduity and tenderness, gained her affections, he pressed her to marry him privately, as he ran the hazard of being disinherited, if his father should have any intimation of his intentions; and represented to her the necessity of having recourse

recourse to that expedient, lest by his authority he should remove him, and separate them for ever. She objected, that her reputation might suffer by such clandestine proceedings. To which he reply'd, that being conscious of her own innocence, it was of little consequence what the world thought; and that his father's life could not be expected to last long, as he was full of years and infirmities. Her passion rather than her reason assented, and they were married by a clergyman of his procuring, without any witnesses but the person who gave her away, who was likewise an acquaintance of his. I should have told you, that some months before her marriage, she had lost her mother; and, with the sum of six hundred pounds, was become her own mistress, as her mother by will bequeathed it her immediately, though she was but eighteen years of age. Her husband visited her privately for ten months, when he left the university on account of his father's death. At taking leave of her, he promised to return and publicly acknowledge-

‘ knowledge her for his wife, as soon as
‘ he could settle his affairs. She remain-
‘ ed tolerably easy, in full confidence of
‘ his honour and integrity: but hearing
‘ nothing of him, after an absence of three
‘ months, she wrote to him, and received
‘ an answer, in which he told her, he
‘ wished her well, but it was utterly in-
‘ convenient for him to have a wife: that
‘ he would allow her a hundred pounds
‘ a year; or if she had an inclination to
‘ marry any other man, he would present
‘ her with a thousand pounds. He told
‘ her, it would be prudent in her to for-
‘ get what was pass’d, since there was no
‘ recalling it, and any stir in the affair,
‘ as she could not prove her marriage,
‘ would only serve to injure her reputation,
‘ but could not affect his. So, for her own
‘ sake, he advised her to be silent upon
‘ that head; that he was setting out on
‘ the tour of Europe, and might possibly
‘ see her at his return, but could have no
‘ opportunity of visiting her before.

‘ This cruel epistle threw her into agonies
‘ scarce to be conceived. She wrote him

' a most pathetic and tender answer, which
 ' contained wishes for his health and prof-
 ' perity, instead of upbraidings, and an
 ' assurance that, as her husband, his in-
 ' junction of silence shou'd be obeyed.
 ' She received no reply, but fifty pounds
 ' from his agent, who inform'd her he
 ' had left England, and orders with him
 ' to send her twenty-five pounds quarter-
 ' ly, for the future. In the most discon-
 ' solate condition she came to my house.
 ' My wife having been an intimate ac-
 ' quaintance of her mother's, she inform'd
 ' her of her unhappy situation, but never
 ' could be prevailed upon to mention the
 ' name of her undoer. She intreated us
 ' to take her into our family as a board-
 ' er, and has lived with us several years ;
 ' in all which time, her conduct has been
 ' truly pious and irreproachable. She
 ' lives very retired, and is seldom seen but
 ' at church : however, she has not been
 ' able so far to conceal herself, as to pre-
 ' vent the addresses of several men of
 ' worth, who imagining she was single,
 ' made.

‘ made her offers of marriage ; but she
‘ never permitted any one to mention the
‘ subject twice to her ; and loves the
‘ wretch that has made her miserable,
‘ with the same unabated fondness she ever
‘ did ; frequently saying, his swerving
‘ from his duty, will not absolve the vows
‘ she has made to heaven and him. He
‘ is lately return’d to England, but so far
‘ from vouchsafing her a visit, she hears
‘ he is making his addressees to another
‘ lady. But if I could but learn her name,
‘ I would wait upon her, and acquaint her
‘ with poor Charlot’s fate.’ The gentle-
‘ man pausing here, I observed to him,
‘ that she ought at least to acquaint him
‘ with the name of her husband, in order
‘ to prevent the ruin of another lady.’
He reply’d, ‘ No persuasions will induce
‘ her to break the promise she has given
‘ him, of never publishing her marriage
‘ till he thought proper.’

Mrs. Goodall and Miss Wellers could not refrain from tears at this recital : even the baronet seem’d greatly affected.

Mr.

Mr. Godfrey continued, ‘ Having staid
‘ some hours with this clergyman, I pro-
‘ ceeded on my journey, and, on my re-
‘ turn I called to enquire after the unfor-
‘ tunate lady. The gentleman of the house
‘ told me, she desired to be excused from
‘ seeing me, and she was as well as could be
‘ expected. This clergyman made me pro-
‘ mise to visit him when my affairs would
‘ permit, and I intend performing it as
‘ soon as I can ; who knows but in time
‘ I may be able to do the lady service?’

‘ I heartily wish,’ said Mrs. Goodall,
‘ you may trace out the barbarous wretch
‘ her husband. Miss Wellers joined in
‘ this wish ; and both the ladies commi-
‘ serated the case of the unhappy wife,
‘ and condemned the man that made her
‘ so.’

Sir Harry said, he never heard a more
affecting story, and launched out into
encomiums on the fidelity of the injured
lady,

lady, highly blaming the perfidy of her husband; then taking his hat and sword, departed. Mr. Godfrey followed in a few minutes, and the ladies being left by themselves, I will not interrupt them.

C H A P. V.

In which Mr. Shooter fees company.

BY the return of the messenger Mr. Godfrey had dispatch'd to Miss Burton, Miss Wellers received a letter from her, filled with expressions of gratitude to her and that gentleman. She mention'd a design her uncle had form'd, of being very soon in town, having obtained an exchange, for a little time, with a clergyman whose affairs called him into their neighbourhood; and gave a hint, that she should be glad to accompany him: which Mrs. Goodall was no sooner informed of, than she wrote to invite the Doctor, Mrs. Wright, and their niece, to her house in town.

Mrs. Minter came that afternoon, to make the ladies a visit; and in the conversation that passed, mention'd her lodger as a gentleman who appear'd to be a man of good principles, but being a stranger
to

The HISTORY of
to her, asked his character of Mrs. Good,
all.

That lady reply'd, ' I have known him
' from his infancy, and can assure you his
' appearance is not deceitful; he is an ho-
' nest good-natur'd man, and is guilty of
' no faults that I know of, except you
' can stile an ignorance of the ways of the
' polite world one.'

After some other discourse on different
subjects, Mrs. Minter return'd: and in a
few days, the ladies received a card, with
Mr. Shooter's compliments, desiring they
would favour him with their company
that evening at his lodgings. They com-
ply'd with the invitation, not a little sur-
prised at the formality of it.

When they arrived at Mrs. Minter's,
they were handed into the dining-room
by Jack, who was smartly equipt to re-
ceive them; and perceived, at their en-
trance, Mr. Godfrey conversing with the
mistress of the house, and her daughter:
the

the latter appeared very handsome, dress'd in white fatin and laced linen.

The squire saluted his visitors, and flapping Mr. Godfrey on the back, desired he would follow his example. Mrs. Goodall imagined by their appearance, that Jack intended to usher them all to the play; but upon her telling him so, he answer'd, 'No, no, I don't think my mother would like to go there.'

'Your mother!' said Mrs. Goodall.

'Ay, my mother,' reply'd the squire. 'Nay I believe Jenny had rather tarry at home.'

'You talk very mysteriously,' said Mrs. Goodall.

''Tis like I may,' answer'd Jack: 'I don't pretend to talk as I did when I was single.'

'Are you married, then, Mr. Shooter?' return'd the lady.

‘ Yes, I am,’ reply’d he, ‘ and am not
‘ ashamed to say it : I went afore the par-
‘ son yesterday.’

‘ And where is your bride, pray ?’ said
Mrs. Goodall.

‘ If she had been a bear she wou’d have
‘ bit you,’ answer’d Jack. ‘ Here father,
(continued he, turning to Mr. Godfrey).
‘ why don’t you own your child ?’

Upon which that gentleman, taking
Mrs. Minter’s daughter by the hand, and
presenting her to the ladies, said, ‘ It is
‘ with great pleasure I obey you, Sir ; and
‘ I dare say, these ladies will join with me,
‘ in congratulating you on your alliance
‘ with so much virtue and merit as this
‘ lady is endued with.’

‘ Indeed,’ reply’d Mrs. Goodall, salut-
ing the bride, ‘ Mr. Godfrey has spoken
‘ my sentiments. I sincerely congratulate
‘ you, Mr. Shooter, on your judicious
‘ choice ;

‘ choice ; and you, ladies,’ turning to Mrs. Minter and Mrs. Shooter, ‘ on the alliance you have made with a gentleman of whose integrity and honour I have had conspicuous proofs.’

These civilities were reply’d to, in a suitable manner, by the squire, his bride, and her mother. Mrs. Goodall then asked the new-married couple when they proposed going into the country ?

Mr. Shooter answer’d, ‘ When my mother can put off her house, and manage matters so as to be able to go with us.’

Mr. Godfrey observing Jack had presented his bride with a sett of cut-steel buckles to her stays ; said, he had an epigram, wrote by a fellow-collegian, on a lady who wore such. Miss Wellers expressing a desire to see it, he took it out of his pocket-book, and presented the following lines to her, desiring she would read them to the company.

On a lady with steel buckles to her stays.

- ‘ To storm my charming Celia’s breast
- ‘ In vain I try’d each subtile art ;
- ‘ The cautious maid secures the guest,
- ‘ And *steels* the passage to her heart.
- ‘ So, lest of Eden’s fairest fruit
- ‘ Too daring man again shou’d taste ;
- ‘ With steel (forbidding the pursuit)
- ‘ An angel guards the sweet repast.’

The squire desired to know if there was a tune to it ; being answer’d in the negative, he declared he would not give a farthing for a song without a tune. The evening passed in innocent mirth, temper’d by good breeding ; and the squire behaved with great decorum. He inform’d the company, that Mrs. Hope was very grateful for their bounty. Mrs. Goodall enquired where she was to be found, and having obtained a direction from Mr. Shooter, bid adieu to this happy family.

Next morning she went to Mrs. Hope’s lodgings, and made no difficulty of ascending

ending three pair of wretched stairs. The widow being informed who she was, received her with a chearful countenance, tho' the miserable apartment she was in bespoke her indigence and distress. She made proper acknowledgements for the seasonable relief Mrs. Goodall had afforded her; saying, she had lived upon dry bread and a little tea for a fortnight before she was so lucky to meet with Mr. Shooter.

Upon conversing with her, Mrs. Goodall found she had been formerly well acquainted with her mother, who was a gentlewoman of exemplary life, and ample fortune. She was so affected with seeing a daughter of hers reduced to such penury, that she determined to put her into a more comfortable way of life. With this view she went to Mr. Samber, after she left Mrs. Hope, and demanded of him, what Mrs. Minter was indebted to him for her house and furniture? He reply'd, Mr. Shooter had been with him, and paid all the expence he had been at upon that account.

She then sent for Mrs. Minter, and proposed to take her house off her hands, and the furniture as it stood; and made Mrs. Hope the offer of putting her into it, and lending her the furniture; saying, she would be answerable for the rent, if she thought she should be able to make any advantage, by pursuing the way of life Mrs. Minter quitted.

She answer'd, with tears of joy, that so kind an offer far exceeded her expectations in this world, and she believed, if she was so happily fix'd, she had some few friends who would aid her in that way. Upon which it was agreed, when Mr. Shooter's family left town, Mrs. Hope should be put into that house.

C H A P. VI.

Contains a scene which may possibly appear a little too hypocondriac for the beau monde.

SOME days after Mr. Shooter's wedding, Mrs. Goodall received a letter from Sir Harry Willsmore's house-keeper, informing her that her master was dangerously ill, and begg'd she would grant him the favour of a visit. Mrs. Goodall was so affected with this news, that she delay'd not to comply with his request.

On her arrival at the baronet's house, she was told by his physicians, that he was in imminent danger. Being conducted to his chamber, she approached the bed, and Sir Harry at the sight of her, desired every body else to quit the room. When he found himself alone with her, he told her, in a feeble voice, that he perceived he was in too dangerous a condition to expect a recovery, and therefore had sent for her,

to communicate a secret, which he did not chuse should die with him. ‘ I impute
‘ my present illness,’ continued he, ‘ to
‘ concealing it so long: for the agitations I
‘ have lately suffered in my mind, has
‘ brought on this fever. The death of
‘ Revel gave me a shock, which Mr. God-
‘ frey’s recital, when I last saw you, se-
‘ conded: and I cannot leave the world in
‘ peace, till I have acknowledged the un-
‘ happy Charlot, whom he mention’d, for
‘ my legal wife, and have made such a pro-
‘ vision for her, as her merit and conjugal
‘ fidelity claims. I am sensible, this con-
‘ fession must make me appear very guilty
‘ in the eyes of a person of your goodness;
‘ especially when you reflect on my recent
‘ offers to Miss Wellers: it was providen-
‘ tial for us both, that she refused them;
‘ for at that time, if she would have ac-
‘ cepted me, I had certainly married her.
‘ Hurried on by passion, I was deaf to the
‘ dictates of my conscience; which, how-
‘ ever, was sensibly stung by Mr. God-
‘ frey’s account of that unfortunate wo-
‘ man, whom I once loved with a fer-
‘ vency

' vency that was not to be equalled, but
 ' by the affection she return'd me. I would
 ' send to desire her to come to me, but I
 ' fear her late accident will render such a
 ' journey impracticable; and I know the
 ' tenderness of her disposition is such,
 ' that to see me in these circumstances,
 ' and to lose me perhaps immediately,
 ' would have too terrible an effect upon
 ' her constitution. I therefore conjure
 ' you, madam, to inform her, that I ac-
 ' knowledge her for my wife; and that in
 ' my last moments, I shall supplicate her
 ' pardon, and petition heaven to shower
 ' down its choicest blessings upon her,
 ' both here and hereafter.'

Mrs. Goodall, half-drown'd in tears,
 assured him his desire should be punctually
 fulfilled; but exhorted him to compose his
 ruffled mind, which being calm, might
 mitigate the violence of his distemper;
 and, perhaps, that Being who was alone
 conscious of the sincerity of his professi-
 ons, would raise him from the bed of sick-

ness, and enable him to make a reparation to his injured wife by his future conduct.

He told her, he had made a firm resolution, if ever he was restored to the blessing of health again, to behave to her as became an affectionate and indulgent husband ; adding, that this short trial had removed the veil that his own passions and vices had thrown over her abundant merit ; and that his inclinations, would now co-incide with his duty : that he had not experienc'd an easy moment from the time he began to deviate from it ; but was perpetually restless, and seeking for fresh amusements to expel the uneasy thoughts his behaviour to her occasion'd.

His aunt again begg'd him to compose himself, and consoled him with the hopes she had conceived, that his repentance would procure both his present and future ease. The physician coming in, express'd some apprehensions lest too long a conversation should prejudice his patient. Upon which Mrs. Goodall retired into another apartment.

The

The doctor's prescriptions had so good an effect, that in two days Sir Harry appeared visibly amended, and continued gradually to alter for the better, to the end of the week; when he was able to sit up a little. His aunt never left the house, till his physician pronounced him quite out of danger, nor till she had reminded him of the resolutions he had made in his extremity, and he had assured her he would strictly adhere to them.

On Mrs. Goodall's return from Sir Harry, she found Mr. Godfrey at her house; who, after enquiring how she left the baronet, told her, he had been likewise to visit a sick person, being sent for by an old man, to consult about making his will. 'And I hope,' continued he, 'it will make a very deserving man happy.'

'I presume,' answer'd Mrs. Goodall, 'by your mentioning this affair, it is no secret. Pray, do I know the parties concern'd?'

‘ Not at present,’ reply’d he, ‘ but I believe, madam, you will be acquainted with one of them very soon.’

‘ You make me curious now,’ said the lady, ‘ and I shall not let you rest till I am inform’d who they are.’

‘ Then, madam,’ answer’d he, ‘ I will not keep you longer in suspense than I was myself, but will tell you the whole affair. When I was introduced to, and left alone with the sick man, he told me that, to oblige a treacherous ungrateful wife, he had used a most deserving and dutiful nephew extremely ill; that, at her instigation, he had turned him out of doors, though he had brought him up from his infancy, to his two and twentieth year, in all which time he never gave him any cause of offence; that after he had discarded him, he had gone through innumerable difficulties and hardships, and was at last forced to quit his native land. That this nephew was
‘ just

‘ just return’d to England, in prosperous
 ‘ circumstances, after many years absence,
 ‘ and notwithstanding his ill treatment, he
 ‘ came to pay his duty to him the moment
 ‘ he arrived in town, which was but the
 ‘ night before, and seem’d concern’d at
 ‘ the weak condition he found him in.”
 “ And as I have no children by my wife,”
 ‘ continued the old man, “ and have de-
 ‘ tected her in a scheme she had formed
 ‘ to rob me, in concert with a fellow that
 ‘ I am told she has been too intimate with,
 ‘ I sent for you to consult about my will,
 ‘ which I would alter in favour of my
 ‘ injured nephew, for I would willingly
 ‘ go out of the world with the satisfaction
 ‘ of having done right at last.”

‘ Accordingly, the will was drawn up
 ‘ and signed, in which he has bequeathed
 ‘ his whole estate to his nephew, with a
 ‘ very small annuity, payable out of it to
 ‘ his wife. When this matter was adjust-
 ‘ ed, his nephew appear’d, and desired
 ‘ me to accompany him into another room,
 ‘ where we found wine and glasses set.

‘ We

‘ We enter’d into conversation. Ob-
‘ serving his name was Brown, and he in-
‘ forming me he was lately arrived from
‘ the West-Indies, my curiosity led me to
‘ enquire if he had a wife?’

‘ Upon his answering in the affirmative,
‘ I asked if she was a Virginian?’

‘ No, Sir,’ replied he, ‘ she was born
‘ in Devonshire, and her name was—’

‘ Wellers,’ interrupted I, ‘ was it not?’

‘ Yes, Sir,’ (answer’d he, in the utmost
surprize) ‘ but how came you to know
‘ that?’

‘ I then acquainted him with the infor-
‘ mation you received from Mrs. Sterns,
‘ at Stamford; and with the situation of
‘ Miss Wellers, who, I assured him, would
‘ sincerely rejoice to hear of her sister.
‘ He expressed great satisfaction at the
‘ account I gave him, and begg’d I would
‘ introduce

‘ introduce him to this family. So to-morrow, madam, if it is agreeable to you, I propose to wait upon Mr. Brown hither.’

Mrs. Goodall reply’d, she should receive him with pleasure. Miss Wellers was so impatient to see her real sister, that she was for going immediately with Mr. Godfrey to her lodgings; but her guardian was of opinion it was better to stay till she had seen her brother.

At the time Mr. Godfrey had appointed, he introduced Mr. Brown to the ladies, who was received with great politeness by Mrs. Goodall, and with an affectionate respect by Miss Wellers, who enquired for her sister. Mr. Brown reply’d, she would have waited on her with him, but being a good deal fatigued with her voyage, he prevented her, and gave the ladies an invitation to the lodgings he had taken, till he could fix himself in a house; saying, Mrs. Brown was very impatient to see her sister.

Miss

Miss Wellers asked him whether she had any nephews or nieces? He reply'd, he had only one daughter, at present, but hoped her sister was in a way to bring him a son.

Mrs. Goodall having detained him to dinner, attended him with his sister, in the afternoon, to his lodgings. Mrs. Brown and Miss Wellers greeted in the most tender manner, and tears of joy flowed from them both. Mr. Brown introduced his daughter, a fine girl, about ten years of age; and said, he was sorry he could not produce more of his children, but this was the only one left of five that he had been blessed with.

Mrs. Goodall having given Mrs. Brown a full account of all that related to her sister, asked her whether she had ever heard any thing of a brother of her mother's? She reply'd ' I have frequently heard both my parents say I had such a relation, and that he was settled in a considerable way of life in
' the

' the East-Indies, but in what part I ne-
 ' ver could learn; and have heard my
 ' mother say, she had not the least idea
 ' of him, as he never came into England,
 ' and she was brought over on the death
 ' of her parents, when she was too young
 ' to remember any thing more than that
 ' she had such a brother. After I was so
 ' unfortunate as to lose her, I never heard
 ' him mention'd.'

The ladies passed the whole evening in
 discoursing on this, and what had happen'd
 since Mrs. Brown's marriage. When they
 parted, Mrs. Goodall gave the brother
 and sister of Miss Wellers an invitation to
 dine with her as soon as possible. On
 their return to Albemarle-street, they
 were agreeably surpris'd with the appear-
 ance of Dr. Wright and his niece.

Mrs. Goodall received her old acquaint-
 tance with great pleasure, telling him,
 she hoped he would take up his quarters
 at her house, during his stay; and enquir-
 ed why Mrs. Wright was not with him?

He

He thank'd her, but said the business that called him to town, required that he shou'd lodge in the city; but he should often do himself the honour to wait upon her. That Mrs. Wright being fearful of undertaking such a journey at that time of the year, he was obliged, unwillingly, to leave her in the country. The young ladies greeted in terms suitable to the friendship they profess'd for each other. The Doctor went to his lodgings, and Miss Burton remained at Mrs. Goodall's.

C H A P. VII.

In which a justice of peace is brought before the reader.

MISS Wellers, highly pleased with the company of her sister, seldom passed two days without seeing her. Miss Burton accompanied her, and by meeting Mr. and Mrs. Brown so frequently, contracted an intimacy with them : they had from their sister heard Miss Burton's story, and used often to lament that it was not in their power to be of any service to her,

About this time, Mr. Brown, by the death of his uncle, found himself possess'd of an estate of eight hundred pounds a year, out of which, he was to pay the widow an annuity of forty pounds ; but such was his generosity, that he voluntarily made it up fourscore, which he assured her, she shou'd receive in quarterly payments. Notwithstanding this addition to his fortune, he could not think of retiring ;

tiring ; for being accustomed to business, he chose to continue in the mercantile way, and took a house in the city for that purpose. Mean while he was necessitated to make a journey into the country, in order to take possession of an estate, which his uncle had purchased since he left him.

Whilst he was gone, Mrs. Brown passed most of her time at Mrs. Goodall's. Mr. Shooter and his wife chancing to meet her there, the squire enquired who she was ; but no sooner was he told her name, and that she was sister to Miss Wellers, than fixing his eyes upon her, he called out, ' Sheart ! don't pretend to put tricks upon travellers ; this lady is not Mrs. Brown ; if she be, she is strangely changed since I went with her to see the gashful old man in the coffin. Besides, I don't know,——I don't see how London air should have changed her shape so in this time ; why, I could have spanned her waist then ; moreover, I don't remember she was pock-broken.'

Mrs.

Mrs. Brown appear'd in a good deal of confusion, whilst Jack was running on in this manner; till Mrs. Goodall said, ' Mr. Shooter, I believe, is under some mistake.' Then winking on Miss Wellers, she desired her sister would go with her into her chamber, to look upon a toilet she had just been working.

Upon their leaving the room, the squire said, ' Now I'll lay a pound that lady is not Mrs. Brown.'

Mrs. Goodall replied, ' Indeed, Mr. Shooter, she is. Suppose Mrs. Brown had a mind to put a trick upon her sister, and got a lady of her acquaintance to meet her, in order to see if she remember'd her.'

' As sure as a gun,' answer'd Jack, ' you've hit on't, that must be the very case; and a merry contrivance I must needs say.'

Whilst

Whilst Miss Wellers was with her sister, she acquainted her with the meaning of Mr. Shooter's behaviour; and she not knowing how it was proper to answer, if he grew more inquisitive, thought it was better not to return into the room till he was gone.

Soon after the squire left Mrs. Goodall's, Mr. Godfrey came to tell Miss Burton, Mr. Willit had inform'd him by a letter, that he should be in town in a few days, in order to get institution to a considerable living, which had been presented to him by a gentleman of his acquaintance, and that his father would accompany him, on account of a law-suit in which he was engaged. The first part of this intelligence was extremely agreeable to her, and Mr. Godfrey proposed to procure her an interview with Mr. Willit at Mrs. Minter's.

Accordingly the morning after his arrival they met. And after some conversation on the occasion of their long separation, and what had happen'd to each in that

that interval, Mr. Willit told her, he should very soon be in a capacity to ask her of her uncle, and hoped she would not oppose his ardent desire of being united to her by the strictest tye, as soon as he was fix'd in his living.

She answer'd, that she had no objection against complying with a request so agreeable to her inclinations: but should be glad to obtain his father's consent, for the consciousness of his aversion to her would allay the happiness she proposed, in passing her life with the only man in the world that she could regard as a husband; and desired he would once more solicit his consent.

He reply'd, ' It would give me equal
' concern to act in opposition to the will
' of a parent, in so material an affair;
' and I will try him again. But, my dear
' Nancy, if he should still continue inex-
' orable to my pressing intreaties, as he
' has no essential reason to allege against
' my choice, I think I may be acquitted
' of

‘ of the crime of disobedience, if I follow the dictates of my honour and inclination ; which, after the reciprocal assurances of affection that has passed between us, I hope you will comply with, especially as I shall not now need to apply to him for more than his blessing and consent.’

This she agreed to, and they parted ; he returning to his father, and she to Mrs. Goodall’s, where she found Mr. Brown waiting to pay his compliments to her, being just return’d from the country.

After he had received her congratulations on his accession of fortune, he said, ‘ Madam, I have compliments to you from a relation of yours, whom I have seen since I left town.’

‘ I don’t know I have any in that part of the country,’ answer’d the lady.

‘ Then I can inform you that you have,’ reply’d he, ‘ and I made the discovery by acci-

‘accident’; but hope it will prove a beneficial one to you, madam.’

Miss Burton seeming impatient for an explanation of these ambiguities, Mr. Brown obliged her with the following relation. ‘When I went, said he, to settle my affairs, I found it requisite to visit the lord of the manor, on account of some fines that were due to him. He was called in the neighbourhood Justice Withers. I was informed that he was an old bachelor, and had an easy income; very fond of being thought an adept in politics; and though he had not stirred ten miles from his own house in thirty years, and had no intelligence but what he received from the public papers, he thought he could dive into the springs which set every court of Europe in action.’

‘When I arrived at his house, called Winnifer-Hall, a man in a dark grey coat with silver locks appear’d, whom I should have taken for the clerk of the
VOL. II. L parish,

‘ parish, if he had not informed me that
‘ he was the justice’s servant ; and that his
‘ master was taking his afternoon’s nap ;
‘ but desired I would walk in, for it was
‘ near the time of his waking. Upon
‘ which I alighted, and amused myself
‘ in the hall, with taking a survey of the
‘ furniture. I observed, the stately staggs
‘ horns supported two old beaver hats ;
‘ and one of the twelve Cæsars grin’d up-
‘ on me, which way soever I cast my
‘ eyes. These emperors overlook’d maps
‘ of the globe, which were pasted beneath
‘ them, and by time and dust render’d
‘ full as unintelligible to me as to them.
‘ Some old political prints cover’d the
‘ other part of the wall ; amongst
‘ which I could with great difficulty
‘ decypher the names of Lewis the Four-
‘ teenth, Cardinal Mazarine, and Ma-
‘ dame Maintenon : the rest were as much
‘ defaced as their originals would have ap-
‘ peared at this distance of time. A few
‘ rusty pikes, and carbines, with a helmet
‘ and breast-plate, were placed over the
‘ chimney ;

‘ chimney ; and on a large brown oaken
‘ table I found Baker’s Chronicles, and
‘ Shaw’s Country Justice.

‘ Whilst I was taking this survey, a
‘ pair of folding doors open’d, which let
‘ me into a parlour, where the justice was
‘ sitting in a Turkey-work easy chair,
‘ from which he informed me, a fit of the
‘ gout prevented his rising. I cast my eyes
‘ round the room, and observed several
‘ portraits, which he told me were drawn
‘ for his ancestors, though they appear’d
‘ to me to be executed by the same hand
‘ with the Cæsars ; and from their near
‘ resemblance, one would have imagined
‘ that Mr. Withers was descended from
‘ a Roman emperor.

‘ As soon as I had mention’d the busi-
‘ ness that brought me, he called for a
‘ toast and October ; and presently appear’d
‘ upon the table, a large silver tankard,
‘ with a tumbler of the same metal. Per-
‘ haps,’ said the justice, ‘ you an’t Eng-
‘ lishman enough to relish this wholesome

‘ liquor; then a bottle of Port was order’d.
‘ He drank a health to all honest English-
‘ men; and I pledged him in his favourite
‘ liquor, which so pleased him that he en-
‘ tered into conversation with me about
‘ my affairs. After they were settled, he
‘ desired my opinion of the peace of
‘ Utrecht; then fell into many encomi-
‘ ums on the behaviour of the late duke
‘ of Marlborough, and prince Eugene,
‘ declaring he had once the honour to see
‘ both those great men.’

‘ I reply’d, I was too young to give my
‘ opinion of the transactions of those times.
‘ He shook his head, and said, “ Mr.
‘ Brown, I fear we shall never see the like
‘ again: but, come then, What think
‘ you of the negotiations carrying on in
‘ the north? Ay tell me that! What think
‘ you of the empress of Russia, and the
‘ king of Sweden? Without waiting
‘ for my answer, he continued: I pro-
‘ mise you, Mr. Brown, that same em-
‘ press of Russia is a notable cunning
‘ woman; a man don’t know where to
‘ have

‘ have her; for sometimes she gives out
 ‘ she is going on a pilgrimage, and at
 ‘ other times a long journey to the far-
 ‘ thermost part of her dominions; and all
 ‘ the time perhaps, don’t intend to stir
 ‘ from her parlour fire. Then, again,
 ‘ there’s the queen of Hungary, a clever
 ‘ woman, let me tell you! She can, when
 ‘ she has an occasion, call I know not how
 ‘ many princes and potentates to the sup-
 ‘ port of that necessary house of Austria.
 ‘ You may talk of Lewis the fourteenth,
 ‘ and Charles the twelfth, but give me
 ‘ women for governors: this nation was
 ‘ never in more prosperity than when it
 ‘ was under petticoat government.” Here
 ‘ a violent fit of coughing put an end to
 ‘ the justice’s harangue.

‘ I told him, since he had so good an
 ‘ opinion of the ladies, I was surpris’d he
 ‘ never married.’

‘ He reply’d, “ It was not my fault, I
 ‘ promise you, Mr. Brown, that I was
 ‘ not. For in the year sixteen hundred

‘ and eighty seven, being just come to
‘ my estate, I courted Mrs. Temperance
‘ Prudely, and gained her consent. When
‘ the revolution happening, her father,
‘ who was a wary man, seeing we were
‘ like to have troublesome times, was wil-
‘ ling to take care of what he had; and so
‘ he told me if I would take her without
‘ a portion I was welcome; but it behoved
‘ him not to part with any money in his
‘ lifetime: and I, knowing he could give
‘ her some if he would, did not chuse to
‘ marry her with nothing; so, Temper-
‘ ance and I have been strangers ever since.
‘ After this disappointment, I turn’d my
‘ head to matters of more concern, and
‘ from that time, I have been studying for
‘ the good of my country and the state.
‘ But come, drink about, let’s have your
‘ toast.”

‘ I then took off a bumper to the cza-
‘ rina.”

“ No, no,” said he, ‘ she won’t serve
‘ my turn, I must have some true-born
‘ Englishwoman.”

‘ Then,”

‘ Then, answer’d I, I will give you
‘ a very deserving young lady, though not
‘ known to you, one Miss Burton.’

“ Burton,” repeated the justice ; ‘ what
‘ Burton, who does she belong to ?”

‘ I then, Madam, told him who your
‘ father was, and where he had lived.’

“ Ho ! ho ! say you so ?” reply’d the old
‘ gentleman, “ Not known to me ! I knew
‘ him well. He was an extravagant spend-
‘ thrifty dog ; let me tell you, if he had
‘ not been such a prodigal, and his wife
‘ such an expensive hussy, I would have
‘ done something for his family, for they
‘ are my nearest kindred ; my mother
‘ was Nanny Burton’s great aunt ; Is this
‘ girl’s name Nan too ?”

‘ I answer’d, Yes, Sir.’

“ Well, continued he, I wish she had
‘ been of her great grandmother’s name.

‘ Bathsheba, was a prudent good fort of
‘ a woman.”

‘ I desired him to recollect the name of
‘ a queen that he was so fond of.’

‘ He reply’d, “ I promise you, Mr. Brown
‘ I did not think of that ; no, I have no
‘ objection to her name. But can you give
‘ me any account of the family ?”

‘ In answer to this, I mention’d the
‘ death of your parents, and took the li-
‘ berty to relate the circumstances in
‘ which you were left.’

‘ He hearken’d very attentively, and
‘ said, “ Since my kinswoman is under Dr.
‘ Wright’s care, she may turn out good
‘ for something. I promise you, I have a
‘ great opinion of that Dr. Wright. For
‘ here is a neighbour of mine, that once
‘ lived in his parish, and he tells me he is
‘ a worthy man, and a good preacher,
‘ and that he understands backgammon
‘ as well as any man in twenty miles. I
‘ desire,

‘ desire, Mr. Brown, you would give my
 ‘ service to him ; and tell him if he would
 ‘ take a journey to Winnister-Hall, I
 ‘ should be glad to smoak a pipe with
 ‘ him.”

‘ I assured him he had form’d a right
 ‘ notion of the Doctor, and promised to
 ‘ obey his commands. I then ventured to
 ‘ tell him you had a lover, a man of
 ‘ merit, and every way deserving of you ;
 ‘ that your regard for each other was re-
 ‘ ciprocal ; but that his father had made
 ‘ you both unhappy, by opposing the
 ‘ match, merely because you could not
 ‘ answer his expectations in point of for-
 ‘ tune.’

‘ He demanded of what rank your lover
 ‘ was ; and upon my answering his questi-
 ‘ on, said, “ I promise you, I will not have
 ‘ my kinswoman run down. She may
 ‘ have a better portion, let me tell you,
 ‘ than he deserves.”

‘ Then, knocking against the floor with
 ‘ his white-headed cane, the solemn figure

‘ who introduc’d me, appear’d. “ Jona-
‘ than,’ said he, ‘ bid Ursula come to
‘ me.”

‘ Upon which he went out, and a ve-
‘ nerable matron enter’d, with a bunch of
‘ keys at her side, and knitting-pins in
‘ her hand.’

“ Here, Ursula,’ said the justice, ‘ take
‘ this key,” drawing one out of his fob,
‘ then whisper’d in her ear.

‘ Whilst she was gone to obey his or-
‘ ders, he took off a tumbler to your
‘ health. At her return, she deliver’d
‘ him a small past-board box, out of
‘ which he took a parcel, and with great
‘ caution pulled off several pieces of paper,
‘ doubling them all up, till he came to the
‘ concealed treasure.

“ Here,’ said he, ‘ Mr. Brown, here
‘ is a piece of work, that was done by
‘ that lady;” (pointing to a picture that
‘ I took for one of the seasons.) “ It was,
‘ con-

‘ continued he, part of the wedding dress
 ‘ of Nanny Burton’s great grandmother ;
 ‘ you shall carry it to her ; and this pa-
 ‘ per, which is in her own hand-writing,
 ‘ and contains an excellent receipt for a
 ‘ sack-posset : tell her I send them to
 ‘ shew her that the women in former days,
 ‘ employ’d their time in somewhat else
 ‘ besides playing at cards, and going to
 ‘ music-meetings ; not but her great grand-
 ‘ mother had an extraordinary fine hand
 ‘ upon the virginals : but then she made
 ‘ it her pastime, and not her business.”
 ‘ And here, madam,’ said Mr. Brown,
 ‘ is your cousin’s present.’

So saying, he deliver’d to Miss Bur-
 ton a piece of curious point, which attract-
 ed the eyes of all the ladies, and he was
 forced to stop till they had viewed it.
 Then proceeded,

‘ I promised the old gentleman to deli-
 ‘ ver his message ; tho’ at the same time,
 ‘ told him, I believed you were as well skill-
 ‘ ed in all the arts of oeconomy as your
 L. 6 great

‘ great grandmother had been, for I had
‘ seen many curious pieces of needle work
‘ of your performing, and had been in-
‘ formed that you had an excellent hand
‘ at a cheefe-cake.’

“ Ho ! ho ! say you so,” answer’d he,
‘ all the better ! all the better ! I promise
‘ you I am glad to hear it, Mr. Brown.
‘ What a shame does the parson mean, by
‘ objecting to his son’s marriage with a
‘ woman, who, if she could not bring him
‘ much portion, can manage so as to save
‘ one ? But, I say it again, Nanny Bur-
‘ ton shall not want one. Pray give my
‘ kind love to her, and desire her to send
‘ me a letter : she can write, I suppose ?”

‘ Doubtless, answer’d I. But as it grew
‘ late, I could hold no longer conversation
‘ with the old justice ; so bid him adieu,
‘ and return’d to my farm, highly pleased
‘ with a visit which, I hope, will redound
‘ to your advantage.’

Miss Burton expressed her gratitude to
Mr. Brown, for the pains he had taken to
recom-

recommend her to her relation, who was turned of fourscore, and, Mr. Brown said, in a very infirm state of health.

She wrote to the justice next day, and gave him an account not only of her own, but of her brother's situation. Dr. Wright wrote also, and the Virginian accompany'd these letters with a present of tobacco to the old gentleman. Miss Burton caution'd all her friends to make no mention of Mr. Withers before Mr. Wil-
lit.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains the most grievous afflictions that can affect the heart of a fine lady.

SOME days after Mr. Brown's return, Mrs. Goodall received the following epistle.

To Mrs. Goodall, &c.

• Dear Madam,

• I T is surely one of the most vexatious
 • things in nature, not to be able to
 • chuse one's company. For though I
 • have had the head-ach all day, am in
 • the vapours to the last degree; and
 • abominate a pen: I am obliged to make
 • use of one, to inform you that I want
 • to have some conversation with you, of
 • all things! but I cannot possibly do my-
 • self the honour of waiting upon you,
 • till you are pleased to inform me, by a
 • line, that that impertinent brute, Shooter,
 • is not in your house; for his conversa-
 • tion and indelicacy is insupportable
 • both

' both to Sir Andrew and myself, who
 ' were very near poison'd by that fellow's
 ' odious tobacco, the last time I did my-
 ' self the honour to attend you. I there-
 ' fore, beg to know, when I may ven-
 ' ture into your house, without danger of
 ' a suffocation; for there has happen'd an
 ' affair of the last moment, that invades
 ' me with inexpressible uneasiness, of
 ' which I want your opinion, though I
 ' think it cannot fail to give you a chagrin
 ' equal to that of

' Your most afflicted
 ' humble servant,

' H. DUMIEL.

P. S. ' Misfortunes never come single,
 ' poor dear Pugg is taken dangerously ill,
 ' and I am out of my wits about him.'

Mrs. Goodall, immediately return'd the following answer.

To

To Lady Dunnie'.

Dear Harriot,

' **I**N compassion to the delicacy of your
' constitution, I will receive you alone,
' to-morrow morning, if you have any
' thing to communicate to

Your most affectionate
humble servant,

S. GOODALL.

Mrs. Goodall was in no great apprehensions from the contents of lady Dunnie's letter, as she guessed the cause of her chagrin. About twelve next morning, that lady was conducted into her aunt's dressing-room. The paleness of her complexion, and the dejected air with which she enter'd, began to make Mrs. Goodall apprehensive that her ladyship had a greater cause for grief than she had imagined. The lady was scarcely seated, when she burst into tears, wrung her hands, and

and declared she was the most unfortunate woman in the world.

Her aunt, vastly alarm'd at this prelude, begg'd her to be calmer, and enquir'd if any accident had happen'd to Sir Andrew ?

‘ Oh! no,’ reply’d the lady, ‘ but I have not seen him to-day ; his valet inform’d me that he went to bed somewhat indisposed last night, but that I don’t mind, for he is frequently so. But my poor dear Pugg!—is,’—Here, tears stop’d her speech, and she was unable to proceed, till Mrs. Goodall said, ‘ You must excuse me, but if you continue to afflict yourself about such a trifle, I must laugh, and cannot help it. What, I suppose Pugg is dead ?’

‘ Oh, Madam!’ said the afflicted lady, ‘ how can you mention the shocking word?’

‘ Dear Harriot,’ reply’d her aunt, ‘ do not make yourself ridiculous, by giving
‘ way

‘ way to so childish a behaviour, you may
‘ easily supply your loss ; there are mon-
‘ keys enough about town.’

‘ No,’ answer’d the lady, ‘ his fellow
‘ is not to be found in the world ; and I
‘ am the most unhappy woman upon
‘ earth !’

Mrs. Goodall employ’d all her eloquence,
in representing the absurdity of such a be-
haviour in a woman of common sense ;
and the lady having swallow’d some sal-
volatile and water, came a little to herself,
and said, she was somewhat easier as to
that grievance ; but she had another to ac-
quaint Mrs. Goodall with, in which she
believed she would sympathise with her.

Her aunt desiring to know what it was,
the lady reply’d, ‘ Oh, Madam ! would
‘ you have imagined a gentleman of Sir
‘ Harry Wilsmore’s understanding and
‘ knowlege of the world, could be de-
‘ coy’d into a marriage with a little in-
‘ significant creature, whom no body
‘ knows ?’

‘ Is

‘ Is your brother married? To whom pray?’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ Yes, madam,’ answer’d her niece, ‘ Sir Harry is shackled:—you will excuse my calling him brother, since he has thought fit to introduce such a low-lived creature into the family.’

‘ How came you by your information?’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ He had the assurance to give it me in a letter,’ reply’d the lady, in which he talks as if he were beside himself, about his honour,—and her virtue,—and stuff! and intreats me to visit the creature; but that I shall never do, whilst I retain my senses.’

‘ All this time,’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘ you never have told me who your new sister was.’

‘ For goodness sake, madam!’ answer’d her niece, ‘ don’t be so cruel, as to call
‘ the

‘ the creature my sister ;—But I will tell
‘ you : the animal that Sir Harry Wilf-
‘ more is linked to, was the daughter of
‘ a petty attorney in Oxfordshire.—I am
‘ told the creature is handsome, and has
‘ some share of sense ; no doubt she had
‘ cunning, or she could not have trapped
‘ him. I should have thought it very na-
‘ tural for him to have taken such a crea-
‘ ture for a mistress, and no body would
‘ have wonder’d at it ; but to make her
‘ his wife, and give her a title that must
‘ perk her up above his sister, is too shock-
‘ ing a thought to be born !—I hope he
‘ will not carry his barbarity so far as to
‘ bring her into any company where I am ;
‘ for if he should have the cruelty to offer
‘ me such an insult, I must inevitably
‘ leave the room :— No,—I think how-
‘ ever infatuated the man may be, he can
‘ never be so lost to all sense of humanity
‘ and good breeding, as to put me to the
‘ pain of giving place to such a trollop.’

‘ I dare say,’ reply’d Mrs. Goodall,
‘ Sir Harry has too great a regard for the
‘ person

‘ person he has chose to form so near an
 ‘ alliance with, to carry her into any com-
 ‘ pany, that would treat her in a manner
 ‘ unbecoming her rank, as his wife. I
 ‘ am now at no loss to guess who my new
 ‘ relation is ; and must confess, I am so
 ‘ far from condemning the step my nephew
 ‘ has taken, that I think it will redound
 ‘ much to his *honour*, in the opinion of all
 ‘ persons, whose pride or vices have not
 ‘ effaced *that principle* in their own
 ‘ hearts. I am sorry to perceive your sen-
 ‘ timents different from mine, in this af-
 ‘ fair ; yet hope, what you have said pro-
 ‘ ceeds rather from hasty judgment, than
 ‘ deliberate consideration ; for I have a
 ‘ better opinion of your morals than to
 ‘ believe, you would think your brother’s
 ‘ conduct less censurable in debauching
 ‘ an innocent girl, than by marrying a
 ‘ very deserving one, whom no tempta-
 ‘ tions could allure from the paths of
 ‘ virtue. You may behave as you please,
 ‘ lady Dumiel, but I shall pay my com-
 ‘ pliments to lady Wilsmore, as soon as
 ‘ she chuses to receive them.’

At

At this, lady Dumiel's tears flowed afresh, and she said, ' Sure nothing in nature can be so cruel! that such a painted thing shou'd be set up above me.' And without waiting for a reply, her ladyship flung out of the room. Mrs. Goodall followed her, and saw her into her chair. Perceiving her impatience would not suffer her to hearken to reason, she did not press her to stay, but hoped, as she was no fool, though her unaccountable pride would not permit her at present to talk rationally on the subject, she nevertheless might think so when her passion subsided.

C H A P. IX.

In which a lover makes a doleful appearance before his mistress.

MR. Willit now came to Mrs. Goodall's, to inform Miss Burton that he had obey'd her commands with regard to his father, and that the answer he received was, ' If you will continue to be a fool, Joe, I can't help it. I have done all in my power to make you wiser ; if you are bent upon marriage, you must follow your own will : all I shall say is, that I will not be accessary to your ruin ; therefore don't ask my consent any more.' ' This,' continued Mr. Willit, ' was all I could get out of him : but I believe I made my application at an improper time, for he is much out of temper on account of his law-suit ; in which, if he shou'd be cast, I am afraid you will think his son scarce worth your acceptance, as he must lose the greatest part of his fortune.'

She

She reply'd, ' My views were never either mercenary, or ambitious; and if you think, in case of such a misfortune, that your circumstances will afford us a sufficient competency, I assure you I should prefer that with you, to an affluence with any other. He seem'd much pleased with this declaration, though it was no more than he expected; and departed in high spirits.'

No sooner was he gone, than Dr. Wright came to wait on Mrs. Goodall: in his conversation with that lady, he said, the affair that occasion'd his journey to town, was to enquire after the effects belonging to the third mate of an India-man, who died in his voyage, and his widow being a parishioner of his, he came to wait the arrival of the ship, in order to see that she was not wronged.

' I hope, Sir,' said Mrs. Goodall, ' you have succeeded in so laudable an undertaking.'

He

He answer'd, ' The ship is but just arrived, but I have taken such measures, as I was inform'd were requisite in the case. However, madam, I should not have troubled you with this account, if it were not introductory to an affair in which you are concern'd; for, finding it necessary to apply to the captain, in my conversation with him, I took occasion to ask, if he knew or ever heard of such a person as Mr. Simpson, an Englishman who resided in some part of the East-Indies?

He reply'd, ' I am well acquainted with a gentleman of that name, who lately resided at Madras, but came to England with me in this voyage.'

' I desired to know where the gentleman was to be found?'

He answer'd, ' Mr. Simpson set out for Plymouth as soon as he landed, and when he returns I will acquaint you with his abode.'

Mrs. Goodall told the worthy Doctor, that she was much obliged to him for his care; and they then fell into a discourse concerning his niece and her lover. The Doctor said, he was extremely concern'd at the event of a cause, in which old Mr. Willit was interested; for, added he, 'the law-suit he has had so long depending, is decided in favour of his antagonist, and he loses four thousand pounds; which I fear will sensibly affect him, as he has always shewn too great an attachment for money; otherwise he is a man of an unexceptionable character.'

Mrs. Goodall said, she was more concern'd for the son than the father, on this occasion. The young ladies being out, and Mrs. Goodall having engaged to follow them, the Doctor took his leave.

The next time Mr. Godfrey waited on Miss Wellers, she observed to him that he look'd very pensive, and obligingly enquired

quired if any accident had happen'd to him?

He reply'd, ' I have lately been engaged in a disagreeable conversation, I must confess; and as I would keep no material secret of this nature from you, I must inform you, madam, that my mother is in town.—She sent a note to Mr. Samber yesterday, which contained only these words.

' Dear Sir,

' Be pleased to let Charles Godfrey know, his mother impatiently expects to see him at the house of Mr. B——, druggist in Leadenhall-street.

' I instantly obey'd the summons, and was introduced to her by Mr. B.—She was so little altered by time, and a change of climate, that I immediately knew her, and demanded her blessing. She threw her arms round my neck, and embraced me with a passionate ferven-

‘cy, weeping, and saying, I was the very
‘image of my father. I then desired to
‘know her name, and to be introduced
‘to the gentleman she had chose to suc-
‘ceed him.’

She answer’d, ‘I am not at liberty, at
‘present, to comply with your request;
‘but when my husband arrives, you will
‘be sensible I have done you no dishonour
‘in marrying him; and he will acquaint
‘you with the reasons of the privacy I ob-
‘serve.’

‘Is he not with you then, madam?’
said I.

‘No, Charles,’ said she, ‘but I hope
‘he will not long be a stranger to you.’

‘She then began to be very inquisitive
‘after my settlement in the world, and
‘way of life; and said, she was extremely
‘pleased to find I had not engaged in a
‘matrimonial one, before her arrival. To
‘this, I answer’d in some confusion, that
‘I was not indeed absolutely married, but
‘had

LUCY WELLERS. 245

‘ had fix’d upon a young lady of great
‘ merit, whom I thought she would ap-
‘ prove of for a daughter.’

She reply’d, ‘ If it is so, I am cruelly
‘ disappointed in my expectations.’ Then
pausing a while, ‘ Dear Charles,’ conti-
nued she, ‘ as it fortunately happens, that
‘ you are not married, I hope it is not
‘ yet too late to propose a match to you,
‘ that I have set my heart upon. What
‘ say you to a fine young lady with twenty
‘ thousand pounds? The lady I would
‘ recommend you to will have at least that
‘ sum.’

‘ I answer’d, if she had a million, it
‘ would not induce me to think of her, as
‘ my affections were so settled on a most
‘ deserving object, that no mercenary mo-
‘ tive should tempt me to renounce her.
‘ Pooh!’ said she, ‘ you talk like a giddy
‘ headed boy. But you shall see the lady I
‘ propose, and if you should not approve of
‘ her, you will give me more uneasiness
‘ than I have experienced in all the vexa-
‘ tious incidents of my life. For, should

• you refuse this advantageous offer, it
• will not be in my power to advance your
• fortune, as I know your father will be
• so offended, that he will not give you a
• shilling.'

• Finding she was so determined, I
• thought it better to drop the subject,
• after telling her I was reduced to a dire
• dilemma, either to act in opposition to
• her will, which I assured her would
• give me inexpressible concern, or render
• myself and the object of my affections
• unhappy for life.'

• She made me no reply; but when I
• left her, told me she loved me with the
• greatest tenderness.'

Mr. Godfrey observing a tear glide down Miss Wellers's cheek, expressed great joy at that proof of her regard for him; and made many sincere protestations of the strength of his passion for her, which, he said, no menaces or blandishments should ever subdue.

She

She answer'd ' I am, Mr. Godfrey, too
 ' well convinced of the sincerity of what
 ' you say, to think you would voluntarily
 ' swerve from your professions, and am
 ' but too sensible of your merit, not to
 ' be pleased with every fresh proof of the
 ' regard with which you honour me.
 ' Yet,—I must not desire you to forfeit
 ' the advantages your mother intends you,
 ' on my account. After the obligations
 ' you have conferred upon me, I should
 ' be very ungrateful, by an ill-timed affec-
 ' tion, to endeavour to deprive you of
 ' such a fortune. And though I own it is
 ' with great regret, I yet—' (here Miss
 Wellers vented a sigh) ' I yet am ready,
 ' for your benefit, to yield up all my
 ' interest in your heart, as a lover—
 ' Consider of it.—You will not be guilty
 ' of a dishonourable action, since I per-
 ' mit you to follow your mother's inclina-
 ' tions.'

' Can you then, my dearest Lucy,' an-
 swer'd the lover, ' so easily part with me?

‘ Sure your affection must be very moderate, or your resolution very heroic.’

‘ Alas !’ replied Miss Wellers, ‘ my affection is not in the least inferior to yours ; and the sacrifice I propose to make, might assure you of that, since nothing but your interest should ever bribe me to make it.’

‘ Then,’ answer’d Mr. Godfrey, ‘ it shall never be. I will incessantly implore my mother’s consent, and if she will not comply with my request, we must,—nay we will,—be content, to live in the manner we propos’d before her arrival.’

The lovers continued in this sort of conversation, till the bell summon’d Miss Wellers to dinner, and Mr. Godfrey departed with a more chearful countenance than he enter’d.

C H A P. X.

Contains an agreeable piece of news.

A T table, Miss Burton observed an unusual gloom overspread the countenance of her fair friend, which caused her, as soon as dinner was ended, to follow her into her apartment, in order to learn the occasion of it. She was no sooner informed of Mr. Godfrey's report, than she joined with Miss Wellers in tears, and complaints of the perverseness of each other's fate.

Whilst they were thus employed, Mr. Brown sent his compliments to Miss Burton, and desired to speak with her. She went into a parlour immediately to receive him. The moment he saw her, he wished her joy. She answer'd joy could not come at a more acceptable time, for she was at that instant very uneasy, and could not think what could occasion his expressions.

‘That, madam,’ said he, ‘this letter
‘will explain, which I have just received.’

She perused it, and perceived it was
to inform him that Mr. Withers died the
night before it was wrote, in the eighty-
fifth year of his age.

As soon as she had read that, he pre-
sented her with one addressed to herself,
from one of the old justice’s executors, in
which he told her, that Mr. Withers had,
by his last will, made a few days before his
death, bequeathed to her brother his real
estate, which amounted to better than
three hundred pounds per annum, and to
her, he had left five thousand pounds
in money. His plate, jewels and furni-
ture, to be equally divided between her
brother and her.

She changed countenance at reading this
account, and without uttering a word
gave the letter to Mr. Brown. He was no
sooner acquainted with the contents, than
he

he communicated them to the family, who unanimously joined in congratulating her on so fortunate an event.

Dr. Wright entering, partook of the joy this news occasioned: and perceiving his niece could not readily recover from her surprise, he turn'd to her, ' You see, my
' dear,' said he, ' a plain verification of
' what I have often told you from the best
' authority ; that however desolate we
' may imagine our state to be in affliction,
' we ought never to repine at the dispensa-
' tions of unerring providence. Had you
' not felt the severe stroke of a separation
' from your indulgent parents, you had not
' been intitled to that peculiar guard
' which heaven has promised to the or-
' phan ; and might never have inherited
' such a provision as is now allotted for
' you. But I hope I need not remind
' you to whom your first acknowledge-
' ments are due ; the next, I will now join
' with you in paying to this worthy gen-
' tleman,' (turning to Mr. Brown) ' whom
' heaven has thought fit to make instru-

‘ mental to your good fortune ; and in-
‘ doing, to reward his own benevolent
‘ disposition, for I am certain, in such a
‘ one, the consciousness of being accessary
‘ to another’s happiness, transfuses a plea-
‘ sure not to be purchased.’

Miss Burton recovering herself, assented to what her uncle had said, and return’d thanks to Mr. Brown, who made a handsome speech on the occasion, in which he waved his own merit, and did justice to hers.

This accession of fortune to her friend, afforded Miss Wellers some satisfaction, amidst the uneasy thoughts that tormented her, on account of her lover.

Mr. Willit came in the morning, to acquaint Miss Burton with the decision of his father’s cause, which she had before heard from her uncle. He lamented the loss he had sustained, merely as it might render him less acceptable to her.

She

She reply'd, ' I was a good deal concern'd when I first heard this news, but ' I am now rejoiced that I have it in my ' power; to convince your father and all ' your friends, that to your intrinsic merit alone, you are indebted for my esteem.' She then told him of Mr. Withers's request.

Having made fresh protestations of the sincerity of his affection, and suitable acknowledgments for the honour she did him, he assured her that this change in her circumstances, made none in regard to the sentiments she had inspired him with, from their first acquaintance; and only rejoiced at it, as it would enable her to live in the manner he intended she should, before he met with his loss: that he did not doubt, yet was ashamed to own, it would be an agreeable surprize to his father.

As soon as they parted, Miss Burton desired her uncle, who was going to
visit

visit Mrs. Hope, to present her with five guineas from her. It gave the good Doctor great pleasure to find the widow in spirits. She loaded him with thanks for his own bounty, and that of his friends; since it was to his humanity in representing her case, and recommending her to others, she was indebted for the comfortable prospect she now had, of providing for her family in a decent manner.

At his return to his lodgings, he found a letter from Mrs. Wright, with one enclosed addressed to him at his own house. The latter he had the satisfaction to find was from his nephew Burton, who informed him that he was upon his journey home, and should be glad (if his affairs would permit) to meet him in town, where he proposed being, at the house of the nobleman whom he had accompany'd, in about ten days after the date of that.

The Doctor communicated this intelligence to his niece; who had lately experienced such agreeable turns of fortune,

as would have rendered her perfectly happy, had not the part she took in the concern of her fair friend given some alloy to her joy.

The Doctor's coming had prevented Miss Burton from attending Mrs. Goodall and Miss Wellers, in a visit they that day made. But when he left her, she was preparing to follow them to Mrs. Brown's, when Mr. Godfrey stop'd her. He came to congratulate her on her good fortune, and finding her alone, acquainted her with the concern his mother's behaviour gave him.

She told him, she heartily sympathised with him and Miss Wellers, on that occasion: and asked him if he could conjecture who the lady was, his mother proposed to him.

He reply'd, ' I believe, madam, I have
 ' seen her, though I am not quite certain;
 ' for in my visit to my mother yesterday, I
 ' found a young lady with her, to whom she
 ' pre-

‘ presented me, with these words, “ This
‘ young man is my son, Miss Acres, that
‘ you have heard me so fervently wish to
‘ see.”

‘ Then turning to me, “ Charles,” said
she, “ this young lady, having had the
‘ misfortune to lose her parents, was left
‘ to the guardianship of your father-in-law,
‘ and came to England with us; you must
‘ introduce her to the ladies of your ac-
‘ quaintance.” This prelude made me
‘ shudder, however, I reply’d,’ (though
not without some confusion) ‘ I should
‘ think it an honour to render the lady
‘ all the service in my power.

‘ That I dare believe,’ said my mother,
‘ when you are as well acquainted with
‘ her merit as I am, and I hope you will
‘ not be any longer strangers to each other.’

‘ I bowed, but dreading she would pro-
‘ ceed to an explanation that would em-
‘ barass me before the lady, I pretended
‘ business would not permit me to lengthen
‘ my

‘ my visit, and came away before any
‘ more was said.’

‘ Pray,’ said Miss Burton, ‘ What appearance did Miss Acres make ?’

‘ A most amiable one,’ answer’d he,
‘ don’t tell my dear Lucy so ; but I must
‘ confess, excepting that idol of my heart,
‘ I never saw a more accomplish’d woman,
‘ or a countenance that indicated more serenity,
‘ and sweetness of disposition.’

‘ I am sorry for it,’ said Miss Burton.

‘ Why so ?’ return’d the lover, ‘ I hope
‘ you cannot entertain so unjust an opinion
‘ of the charms of Miss Wellers, or my
‘ honour, to imagine the most amiable object
‘ in the world could make any impression
‘ on my heart, equal to what it
‘ has received from her, who, I assure
‘ you, will ever retain that place in it,
‘ which is due to her transcendant merit.
‘ I am sensible I shall be driven to the
‘ cruel necessity of disobliging the person
‘ who

‘ who gave me birth, if she perseveres in
‘ her intentions; but I am determined to
‘ undergo any vexation, rather than for-
‘ feit my claim to your fair friend, and my
‘ own peace of mind, by a base desertion
‘ of her.’

Miss Burton highly commended sentiments so just, and demanded his pardon, for dropping any hint, that could lead him to think she had form'd an opinion so unworthy of him. They continued talking on this subject till Mr. Godfrey's business called him away. And as it was then too late for Miss Burton to go into the city, we will leave her to ruminate on what she had heard.

C H A P. XI.

Contains an account of a visit Miss Burton receives from an old gentleman. With a present for a new married husband.

AT Mrs. Goodall's and Miss Wellers's return from the visit mentioned in the preceding chapter, Miss Burton acquainted the latter with the conference she had held with Mr. Godfrey, omitting only, as he had desired, any mention of the charms of Miss Acres. The assurance of her lover's constancy, gave Miss Wellers some ease; yet, the thought of her having a rival, approved of by his parent, would not permit it to be of a long duration. And I am informed, she had a more uneasy night than I would wish any of my readers to experience. However, if any of them should be troubled with such, let them attentively peruse this soporific.

Next

Next morning, Mr. Willit made his appearance again at Mrs. Goodall's, when he told Miss Burton, there was a necessity for his leaving the town in two days, in order to be inducted : and that his father was desirous of paying his respects to her before he went ; having conceived an high opinion of her, for her *generosity*, ' that was ' the old gentleman's expression,' continued he. ' I could not help observing to ' him, that this alteration in your circumstances had made none in the sentiments ' and disposition of the person he had hitherto objected to.

He reply'd, ' he had then other views for me ; but since you had proved the sincerity of your affection for me in so disinterested a manner, he should no longer oppose our mutual inclinations.'

' Nothing but the respect I bear to him as a parent, could have prevented my smiling at this turn.'

Miss

Miss Burton reply'd, she should receive the old gentleman's visit with pleasure, and next morning being appointed for their interview, they parted.

The following day, Mr. Willit introduced his father to Miss Burton. She received him with as much respect as she could have done, had she been the party obliged.

In answer to many speeches he made, by way of apology for his former behaviour to her, which, he said, proceeded from his ignorance of her desert, she said, 'I esteem it a great happiness, Sir, ' that you at all approve of Mr. Willit's ' choice; no endeavours of mine shall be ' wanting to confirm the good opinion ' you are now so kind to entertain of me: ' and since providence has thought proper ' to deprive me of my dear parents, that ' duty which I always thought due to ' them, shall be transmitted to you; and ' I shall as gratefully receive any advice ' you

- ‘ you shall be pleased to bestow on me, as
- ‘ if it came from them.

The old gentleman seem'd extremely pleased with her behaviour to him, and pressed her to marry his son before he left the town ; but, she said, she chose to defer her marriage till the arrival of her brother. This being agreed to, the gentleman took leave of her, and set out for the country the day after.

In the afternoon Sir Harry Wilsmore came to pay his devoirs to his aunt ; and informed her that he had brought his lady to town, and had given out that he was but then married, as his late offers to Miss Wellers were no secret. He desired her to caution that lady, and Mr. Godfrey, against mentioning lady Wilsmore's story, as they were the only persons in town who were acquainted with it. His aunt said, she would venture to promise it should never take air ; then congratulated him on his re-union with so deserving a wife, and hoped he was sensible of his happiness.

He

He answer'd, ' Much more than such a
 ' wild fellow as I deserve to be ; for I have
 ' been an infidel, I must confess, with re-
 ' gard to your sex : and pretty much
 ' inclined to the Turkish opinion of them.
 ' But since my society with a truly valu-
 ' able woman, I have exploded all such
 ' vague notions, and am convinced that
 ' the fair sex have souls, and are rational
 ' creatures.'

Whilst the baronet and his aunt were in
 this discourse, a servant enter'd, and pre-
 sented the former with a letter from Mr.
 Godfrey, who had been informed by Mrs.
 Goodall, of Sir Harry's and his lady's re-
 union, and hearing he was there, sent him
 the following stanzas on the occasion.

To Sir Harry Wilsmore.

' As Cælia with her Damon sat,
 ' Beneath her favourite poplar's shade,
 ' Delighted each with t'others chat,
 ' Repeating vows that each had made ;

' It

- ‘ It chanc’d a turtle perch’d on high,
‘ Caressing too his downy fair,
‘ Perceiv’d their love ; and drawing nigh,
‘ He thus address’d the wedded pair.
‘ Hail, Damon ! thou who wanton rang’d,
‘ And Cælia, who despairing lov’d !
‘ Bless’d ye, now heart for heart’s exchang’d,
‘ And Hymen’s torch by both approv’d.
‘ Mark well that constant mate of mine,
‘ And me to her no less resign’d ;
‘ Like us, at home love’s rites confine,
‘ So each shall wear a tranquil mind.
‘ Would each be happy, nymph and swain,
‘ Like us, whose mutual temper’s cool ;
‘ Let Damon guide with gentlest rein,
‘ And Cælia by obedience rule.
‘ Thus, spite of time’s devouring tooth,
‘ Each will preserve a pow’r to charm ;
‘ With her you’ll bloom eternal youth,
‘ With you she’ll never cease to warm.

Sir Harry having perused these lines,
delivered them to Mrs. Goodall, ‘ See
‘ here, madam,’ said he, ‘ what Miss Wel-
‘ lers’s turtle has been pleas’d to send me.’

His

His aunt read the song ; and said, she much approved of the advice ; and having, at her nephew's desire, order'd him pen, ink and paper, he wrote this answer.

To Charles Godfrey, Esq;

' Dear Sir,

' I Thank you for your stanza's ; the
' softest methods of conveying advice,
' have always been esteem'd the most ef-
' fectual ; sure therefore I shou'd deserve
' to be rank'd amongst the incorrigibles,
' not to attend to yours, when it proceeds
' from so gentle a monitor. It is agreed
' on all hands that I don't want sense to
' discern my former errors ; it shall be as
' generally acknowledg'd I want not reso-
' lution to correct them. You may de-
' pend upon it, my Charlotte shall ever
' find a faithful husband ; and you, if you
' will allow me that honour, a sincere
' friend in

' Your obedient servant,

' H. WILSMORE.'

The baronet having finished his letter, Mrs. Goodall talked to him of his lady in terms of affection and respect; and said, she would wait on her as soon as she chose to see company.

Sir Harry reply'd, a visit from her would be esteem'd as an honour to them both; but lady Wilsmore was still somewhat indisposed by the accident which happen'd to her arm, and did not intend to appear in public till she was quite recover'd; in the mean time she wou'd be glad to see her without ceremony. Dr. Wright coming in, after some civilities exchanged between him and the baronet, the latter withdrew.

The Doctor told Mrs. Goodall, that Mr. Simpson was come to town, and he propos'd waiting upon him; but desir'd to know in what manner she chose he should proceed, whether he should give him any information concerning Miss Wellers before she saw him. She answer'd, 'I am extremely obliged to you, Sir, for the trouble you are at; if you see Mr. Simpson,

‘son, you are more capable of judging
 ‘how it is proper to act in the case, than
 ‘I am of dictating to you; and therefore,
 ‘Sir, I leave the management of this affair
 ‘entirely to you; and should be much
 ‘pleased to see Mr. Simpson with you
 ‘here to-morrow.’

The Doctor told her then, with her
 leave, he should acquaint Mr. Simpson with
 the situation of his niece, before he waited
 on her again. Mrs. Goodall asked, if
 he knew whether Mr. Simson was married
 or single? To which he reply’d, ‘The cap-
 ‘tain from whom I received the intelli-
 ‘gence I gave you, madam, was too much
 ‘engaged, for me to detain him with a
 ‘long conversation on the gentleman; and
 ‘that was a circumstance I did not enquire
 ‘into. I am to meet him at a coffee-house
 ‘to-day; for by the captain I inform’d him,
 ‘if he would do me the honour of an in-
 ‘terview at any place he pleased to ap-
 ‘point, I would meet him, as I had an
 ‘affair of some moment to communicate
 ‘to him. He return’d his compliments,

‘ and appointed the Rainbow coffee-house
‘ in Fleet-street; desiring I would not en-
‘ quire for him, as he was a stranger, but
‘ for captain B——, who would be with
‘ him.’

When the Doctor took his leave, Mrs. Goodall begg'd him to send her a line that night, if he had time, after the conference he was to have with Mr. Simpson, to inform her when she might expect to see him.

CHAP. XII.

In which two strangers make their appearance at Mrs. Goodall's.

MRS. Goodall sat up beyond her usual hour, in expectation of hearing from the good Doctor; and about half an hour after eleven, she received a letter from him, informing her that Mr. Simpson was overjoyed at the account he gave him of his niece, and proposed waiting upon Mrs. Goodall with him in the morning.

Mrs. Goodall upon this, thought it time to acquaint Miss Wellers with her uncle's arrival, and intended visit. That young lady was agreeably surpris'd at this news; and both the ladies retired full of expectations of what this interview might produce.

Next morning whilst they were at breakfast, they were informed that Dr. Wright and another gentleman was below; the servant receiving orders to conduct them

up, a tall grand personage appeared, who seem'd to be near the Doctor's age, followed by that good clergyman, who addressing the lady of the house, said, 'Madam, give me leave to present Mr. Simpson to you.'

The stranger received and returned that lady's civilities with great politeness; then turning to his niece, saluted her, and expressed great joy at the sight of his sister's child.

Dr. Wright and Miss Burton withdrew, and Mrs. Goodall entered into a detail of all that had happened to Miss Wellers, excepting the affair of Sir Harry Wilsmore; and told Mr. Simpson her reasons for exchanging her guardian. He returned acknowledgments suitable to the favours she had conferred upon his niece; and told her, he received the account she had transmitted by her friend to India, not long before he set out; and that the hopes of seeing his niece was a powerful motive to hasten his voyage; that he would have waited

on her immediately after his arrival, but found it necessary to take a journey to Plymouth first, in order to enquire into the affairs of his deceased uncle. That he perceived upon examination, his family had been greatly injured by Searls, and he was determined to bring him to an account; for he had received authentic information, that the estate captain Simpson bequeathed to Searls by will, was entailed by his grandfather, and consequently he had no right to dispose of it.

Mrs. Goodall asked if he had seen Searls?

He answer'd in the negative: 'Neither,' said he, 'do I design he should know of my arrival, till I have consulted some experienced lawyers upon the affair. I have caution'd captain B—— and the worthy gentleman who introduced me here, against making any mention of me, and I must beg the same favour of you, madam, and Miss Wellers.'

The ladies reply'd, they would observe his caution: they then proceeded to give

him the history of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and it afforded him great satisfaction to hear of the prosperity of his elder niece.

Mrs. Goodall would have detained him to dinner, but he excused himself on account of business; and departed with a promise of returning in the afternoon.

During Mr. Simpson's stay, Miss Burton had been engaged with her brother, which Mrs. Goodall being informed of, desired Mr. Burton would favour her with his company at dinner; and he, with that ease peculiar to persons who have seen the world, accepted the invitation.

She perceived him to be a polite ingenious man; and observed, though he had lost all that awkward bashfulness which is sometimes visible in men of the brightest parts, before ladies to whom they are strangers, yet he had retained all his native modesty, and never asserted any thing in conversation, with a peremptory tone or air, or seem'd to assume on the accidental
advan-

advantages he received from the intimacy and favour of his right honourable patron. To say truth, he had always been treated by that nobleman as a friend and a gentleman: for this young lord had the discernment to distinguish merit, devoid of titular honours, and would have thought it derogatory from his birth and understanding, to have behaved to a person of Mr. Burton's desert and education, with the like (or perhaps less) respect, that he payed to his dancing, fencing or boxing masters. Nay, so peculiar were the notions of this nobleman, that he has been observed to listen to the discourse of a man in a rusty grey coat, who had been shut up twenty years in a college; and in all that time never attempted to make a coupeé, or an acquaintance with either Sherlock or Broughton, and so tasteless to prefer this queer conversation, to that of those accomplished heroes. Mr. Burton therefore was not necessitated to attend to their lectures, in order to qualify himself for a companion to a man of quality, who preferred intellectual to bodily strength.

Miss Burton had the satisfaction to find her brother approved of all her conduct during his absence.

About six in the evening Mr. Simpson returned, and presented Mrs. Goodall with a curious snuff-box, of considerable value; and his niece with her grandmother's picture, enamell'd and surrounded with diamonds; saying, he hoped her grandfather's would be acceptable to Mrs. Brown, whom he intended to visit next day. He presented Miss Burton with a handsome ring, telling her he hoped she would accept it, as a small token of his gratitude for the regard with which she honour'd his niece.

After these gentlemen quitted Mrs. Goodall's, the young ladies mutually congratulated each other on the happy return of their agreeable relations, and Mrs. Goodall sympathised with each; but as it grows late, the reader will excuse my relating their whole conversation, and give me leave to retire with the ladies.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

Contains a farther account of the banker's family.

AS Mr. Godfrey has not lately made his personal appearance, I think it high time to inform the reader, that he came to Mrs. Goodall's the day after the strangers had been there, and seemed more dejected than ever. He told Miss Wellers he had just parted from his mother, who said she expected her husband every day, and he feared when he arrived his trial would come on; for though he continued to see Miss Acres every time he went, his mother did not explain herself; but said, his father would acquaint him fully with their intentions.

'I cannot conceive,' added he, 'the meaning of this behaviour, and the privacy she observes with regard to herself; for upon my requesting her to favour me with a recital of what had befallen her since she quitted England, and her rea-

‘ sons for keeping me so long in ignorance
‘ of her situation, she reply’d, “ You
“ shall be acquainted with my motives for
“ acting in this manner, when my husband
“ arrives; in the mean time, rest assured
“ they are such as you will not condemn.”

He then intreated Miss Wellers to consent to accept his hand privately, as the only expedient to render their scheme abortive.

She expressed some little indignation at this proposition, and said, ‘ As my uncle
‘ has been so kind to take notice of me,
‘ he ought to be consulted upon such an
‘ occasion; neither do I think it consistent
‘ with my duty to my good guardian, to
‘ consent to a clandestine marriage; and
‘ am amazed you should propose it. I beg
‘ you would lay aside all such thoughts,
‘ and be as easy as you can. You may be
‘ assured of my constancy, and it is best
‘ to leave the event to heaven, and be perfectly
‘ resigned under the dispensations of
‘ a director who is as impartial as he is
‘ incapable of error.’

Her

Her lover, convinc'd as far as his passion would permit, submitted to the reasons she had alledged; and before he left her, engaged to acquaint her by a letter with his mother's proceedings, if he should be prevented from coming to Mrs. Goodall's that night, protesting he would ever preserve his faith to her inviolate.

They parted with mutual concern, just as Mr. Willit return'd from the country, to claim Miss Burton's promise of being united to him, as soon as her brother arrived. She at first objected to the ceremony's being performed, till Miss Wellers was easier in her mind; declaring that reflections on her situation would be a great obstacle to her own happiness, and she could not think of this event with the satisfaction she should do, if her friend was in greater tranquillity.

Miss Wellers upon this, begg'd her concern for her might not impede Mr. Willit's happiness; assuring Miss Burton, that her

her union with so worthy a man would afford her the greatest consolation she could receive in her present circumstances; and she should take it unkind if she did not give her that satisfaction as soon as possible.

Her intreaties adding force to those of Mr. Willit, Miss Burton promised to appoint the day as soon as she returned into the country, saying, her duty to her aunt required she should pay her the compliment of desiring her presence upon the occasion. It therefore was agreed, that the Doctor, his nephew, and niece, with Mr. Willit, should leave the town the latter end of the ensuing week.

Whilst this affair was debating, Miss Wellers was in hourly expectation of seeing Mr. Godfrey, or hearing from him, as he had promised she should, the moment he return'd from his mother, to whom he was going when he left Mrs. Goodall's. She had passed some hours in suspense, when a servant inform'd her that a person waited below with a letter, which he said must be deliver'd into her own hand.

At

At this intelligence she flew down stairs,
and without looking on the face of the
messenger, who ceremoniously deliver'd the
billet, or turning to the superscription, she
ran immediately up to her closet, and with
a heart divided betwixt hope and fear,
open'd this epistle.

To Miss Wellers, &c.

With care.

Madam,

I Am to beg a millyon of pardens for
the trechry of my memoury, which
did not permit me to rechollect the pro-
mis I made you when I was at Mrs.
Goodalls, before I was married. When
you did me the honer to desire the words
of a song which I have been thre hole
weeks endeavouring to rechollect. It
shou'd have wated on before, but I did
not chuse to trust any of my fellows to
transcribe it for fear of mistacks. I make
no doubt it will receive grate addishyons
from your fair voyce.

And am madam,

your trayaer humbell serviture,

ANDREW DUMIEL.

S O N G.

SONG.*

On Tameses banks a gentile youth
 Fordues his sighs with matchless trueth
 Even when he sighed in reime
 The lovely made his flame return
 And woed with equal warmth a burn
 But——that she had not time.

Often you prepare with eager feet
 In theese grate shades the fair to meet
 Beneeth the accustom'd clime
 She woed have fondly met him there
 And heeld with love each tender care
 But——that she had not time.

It was not thus inconstent made
 You actid onse the sheppard fade
 When love was in its prime
 She greefed to here him thus complane
 And woed have rit to ese his pane
 But——that she had not time.

Miss

* Left the reader should imagine the author of these volumes invented this song for Sir Andrew, she assures him or her, that she actually received it verbatim as it is here inserted, from a great Beau.

Miss Wellers was so disappointed, that she had not patience to read the baronet's letter through, before she return'd to the company, and deliver'd it to Miss Burton, to communicate it, whilst she retired to indulge the uneasiness the silence of her lover occasioned.

Hearing nothing of him that night, she passed it in less tranquillity than she expected, and by the concern she experienced, was sensible it was much easier to recommend than to practise resignation. She made no question but Mr. Godfrey's mother continued inflexible, and could not tell how to construe this breach of his word.

In the morning, she received the wish'd-for billet, in which Mr. Godfrey informed her that business of importance prevented his writing over night. That he had received a letter from his mother since he rose, to command him to attend her, in order to be introduced to the lady she had so often recommended to him. That Mr. Samber

Samber insisted on his obeying the summons; and was of opinion, when the lady was acquainted with the engagement he was under, she would voluntarily resign him. That with the hopes of being refused he should wait upon his mother; but could not be easy till he had given her this information, and the strongest assurances of his fidelity. He called heaven to witness to the sincerity of his protestations, that it should remain unshaken, and neither blandishments or threats should ever induce him to falsify the vows he had made of being hers, and hers only, whilst he existed.

This letter affected her so strongly, that she could not help communicating it to Mrs. Goodall, who endeavoured to console her with Mr. Samber's notion; and said, she thought it very improbable that a lady with such a fortune would accept him, when she was informed from himself of the pre-engagement of his heart.

These sentiments of her guardian gave Miss Wellers a dawn of hope; and Mrs.
Goodall

Goodall did not fail to make use of many arguments to guard her against impatience, provided Mr. Samber and she should be mistaken in their conjectures.

Dr. Wright breakfasting with Mrs. Goodall, she acquainted him with this affair, and he joined in thinking there was great likelihood of the lady's refusing Mr. Godfrey, - if he told her the state of his heart. 'But shou'd she not, my dear Miss Wellers,' said he, 'a person of your piety and good sense, will not sure repine at the decrees of providence, which are as immutable as they are just; both which reasons are sufficient to prove the absurdity of resistance or repinings, I must own I heartily pity the situation of your mind at this juncture; and as far as human foresight can reach, think the prospect of a union with such a gentleman as Mr. Godfrey, very promising of happiness: but we are short-sighted mortals, and are every one of us too liable to mistake appearances; to be assured, that what now seems most eligible and

‘ and fortunate, may not in the end be productive of extreme misfortune. I am, madam, far from condemning the regard you have for Mr. Godfrey, nor would I seek to lessen it : I only should be glad if any thing I could say would guard you against being too much afflicted at a disappointment that you may possibly meet with. Should any thing happen to prevent or to forward the accomplishments of your present wishes, I shall be the first to congratulate you upon the occasion ; as I am well assured you have too much goodness not to be a favourite of heaven, and consequently whatever that determines, must in the event be your happiest lot.’

Here the Doctor was interrupted by the entrance of Mr. Simpson, who told Mrs. Goodall he had been too much engaged since his arrival, to give them an invitation to his lodgings ; but now he was a little settled, both his wife and himself should esteem it as a favour, if she and Miss Wellers would dine with him on the morrow.

At

At the mention of Mrs. Simpson, both the ladies apologized for not enquiring after her, supposing him unmarried. Mrs. Goodall asked if he had any children? He reply'd in the negative; but said, He should less regret the want of such blessings, since he had found his sister's. He gave Dr. Wright an invitation to meet Mrs. Goodall at supper.

The ladies enquiring if he had yet seen Mr. Searls? he answer'd, 'I have been with him, and found him in such a dejected state, that I could not help pitying him, though I know him to be a despicable wretch. His wife and he, it seems, are just parted, and I doubt the expences of a separate maintenance, more sensibly affects him than the occasion of it.'

'Pray,' said Mrs. Goodall, 'do you know what that was?'

'I am inform'd,' reply'd he, 'that Mrs. Searls detected him in an amour he had
' for

• for some time been engaged in, with her
• cook-maid, and insisted upon a separa-
• tion. His daughter, who married an
• Irishman, has caused him no less vexa-
• tion than the other that eloped with his
• servant; for her dear joy has thought
• proper to leave the kingdom with the
• money he obtained of Searls, though
• he would not deprive him of his daughter,
• having left her upon his hands. My
• cause is soon to be tried, and the right
• is too flagrant on my side to be disputed.
• He has offer'd me a considerable sum to
• make up the affair, without coming to
• a public trial: but it is highly proper to
• expose such villainy to the world; for I
• have evident proofs of forgery with re-
• gard to the will.'

Dr. Wright said, he was a perfect
stranger to Mr. Searls, otherwise than by
report, which did not represent his cha-
racter as deserving esteem; yet he hoped
Mr. Simpson, as he found him bowed down
by all these misfortunes coming together,
would in his justice remember mercy; and
added,

LUCY WELLERS. 287

added, ' If you will condescend to hear me,
' I have a word to say in behalf of this de-
' linquent.'

Mr. Simpson reply'd, ' Sir, I am ready
' to hearken to any thing that proceeds
' from so candid a person.'

Upon which the Doctor said, ' I have
' been thinking, Sir, of Mr. Searle's case ;
' he has hitherto been a bad man, and
' you have proved him so ; you saw him
' extremely dejected, may we not impute
' that very dejection to remorse for his past
' conduct ? Charity will permit us to put
' so favourable a construction on it ; if we
' should err in our conjectures, the mo-
' tive will plead our excuse, before that
' court of judicature where we all must
' appear : I therefore would persuade you
' to leave his trial to be decided at that
' unerring tribunal, and be satisfied with
' the restitution of your estate. I believe
' you would not be accessary to his utter
' ruin, much less to that of an innocent
' person, who is in partnership with him ;
' and

‘ and you are too conversant in such affairs, not to be sensible how much depends on the credit of a tradesman. I never heard he was guilty of any act of injustice in his business.’

Mrs. Goodall seconded the Doctor’s motion; and Mr. Simpson, though warm, was a person of an humane disposition, and easily softened by arguments of that nature. He told the Doctor he highly approved his sentiments, and should restrain himself within the bounds he had prescribed. And after a little more discourse, this company separated.

C H A P. XIV.

In which you will find the lovers in the height of perplexity.

MISS Wellers pondered upon Dr. Wright's discourse the greatest part of the night, and though she could not totally banish her inquietude, she found it greatly mitigated by the arguments of her worthy friends. In the morning she, at Mrs. Goodall's request, dressed herself in the handsomest manner, in order to wait upon her uncle and aunt.

When they arrived at Mr. Simpson's lodgings in James's street, he immediately conducted Mrs. Goodall and his niece into the dining-room, and presented them to his lady, who received the former with a friendly and polite ease, and the latter with the affection of a mother. She retain'd, though turn'd of fifty, the appearance of a fine face and graceful deportment.

After conversing with her visitors about an hour, a servant enter'd and bow'd to

her; upon which she left the room, with an apparent perturbation in her countenance. She had not been absent many minutes, when Mr. Simpson asked his niece how she liked her aunt?

She reply'd, she thought herself extremely happy in having such a relation. He then fix'd his eyes stedfastly upon her, and said, ' Miss Wellers, am I to imagine ' that such a young lady as you, have still ' a heart to dispose of? Or may I not more ' reasonably suppose you have surrender'd ' it to the pressing solicitations of some favoured lover?'

She blushed; and Mrs. Goodall reply'd, ' I believe, Sir, your question has a little ' confused Miss Wellers, as it came so abruptly, otherwise I think she need not be ' ashamed to confess she has bestowed the ' valuable treasure you mention, upon a ' gentleman whose merit and services have ' render'd him deserving of it. When he ' first address'd her, he thought proper to ' consult me; and I must own it was by my ' advice,

“advice, and with my approbation, that
 “she received his addresses; though I am
 “convinced her heart was not a little inter-
 “ested in his favour. And I dare believe,
 “Sir, when you know his desert, you will
 “find nothing to object against him.”

Mr. Simpson, with very great gravity
 of countenance, said, “It is so then—
 “I wish I had been acquainted with this
 “affair before—I had other intentions;
 “but—we shall see what is to be done.”

During this speech Miss Wellers never
 lifted her eyes off her fan, the sticks of
 which she had been counting the whole
 time; yet had any gentleman at White’s a
 thousand guineas depending on the exact
 number of them, she could not have ascer-
 tained it.

Mr. Simpson was interrupted by the en-
 trance of his lady, followed by a gentle-
 man whose countenance denoted his anxie-
 ty: he scarcely lifted up his eyes to sur-
 vey the company, and might possibly have
 remained in that gloomy state of insen-

fibility some minutes, had not Mrs. Goodall called out, 'Mr. Godfrey, what is the reason you look so cool upon your friends?'

This speech roused him from his reverie; he bowed, but the surprise he was in at the unexpected sight of these ladies would not permit him to reply.

'My dear,' said Mrs. Simpson, 'give me leave to present my only child to your notice;' taking Mr. Godfrey by the hand. Mr. Simpson immediately saluted him, and turning to the ladies, said, 'I perceive this young man is no stranger to you: I would have given ten thousand pounds my niece had bestowed her heart upon him.'

This exclamation giving Mrs. Goodall some light into the affair, she reply'd, 'And yet I would venture a considerable wager that he has refused one with twice that sum. But since I perceive these young folks cannot speak for themselves, I will affirm that each would prefer the other,

LUCY WELLERS. 293

‘other, without a sixpenny piece, to any one else with a million.’

‘Madam,’ said the young gentleman, a little recovering from his amazement, ‘you have kindly uttered the sentiments of my heart; and I shall be but too happy if Miss Wellers is the fair enemy I dreaded so much to meet.’

‘Then,’ reply’d Mr. Simpson, ‘I will confirm your happiness, by assuring you she is the identical person I so strenuously perswaded you to accept. It gave me inexpressible concern to find you so averse to my proposals; and it affords me an adequate degree of pleasure, to perceive your wishes have anticipated mine.’

This conversation no less embarrassed Miss Wellers than her lover. She was not able to open her lips, when Mr. Simpson taking her hand, said to her, ‘I hope, my dear, you will not refuse to bestow this where I perceive you have given your heart.’

She return'd an assenting bow. Then turning to Mr. Godfrey, 'Son,' said he, 'this fair lady with the twenty thousand pounds, your mother promised, waits your acceptance; and for the sake of both your dear mothers, I will at my decease encrease your fortune.'

Mr. Godfrey fell on his knees, and in rapture kissed Mrs. Simpson's hand, saying, 'Dear madam, I am more indebted to you for this valuable present,' (looking at Miss Wellers) 'than for that of life.' He continued to pour forth his heart in grateful acknowledgments to her, his father, and Miss Wellers; and that young lady received and returned the affectionate careffes of her uncle and aunt, in the most obliging and modest manner.

Mr. Simpson then proposed her appointing the day for the wedding: but she begg'd the celebration of it might be deferred till Mrs. Goodall's return into the country, if that lady would permit her to have

have the ceremony performed there by her worthy friend Dr. Wright.

Mrs. Goodall answer'd, she was much obliged to her for the respect she honoured her with, and she would leave town whenever Mr. Simpson's affairs would permit him to go with them, for she must insist on their company. He return'd her thanks, and said he should be ready to set out in the following week ; which was very agreeable to Mrs. Goodall, as she knew it would give the good Doctor great pleasure, to accompany them down at the time he was to attend Mr. Willit and his niece.

Mr. Godfrey enquired for Miss Acres, and told his mother his apprehensions on that lady's account. She reply'd, ' She
' will give us her company at dinner ; she
' is a deserving good girl ; and were I under no obligations to her deceased father,
' her behaviour has been such, that I
' should have had that regard for her which
' her intrinsic worth merits. She is an
' orphan, with four thousand pounds to

‘ her fortune ; and is qualified to make
‘ some deserving man very happy. I know
‘ she is impatient to be introduced to my
‘ niece ; I will therefore send to desire her
‘ to walk in.’

‘ Before the lady comes,’ said Mr. Godfrey, ‘ I should be obliged to you, madam,
‘ if you would oblige me with the reasons
‘ for your keeping me so long in the dark,
‘ in regard to my worthy father-in-law.’

‘ I must answer that,’ said Mr. Simpson.
‘ These ladies know the affair of Searls obliged me to conceal my arrival. I gave
‘ your mother the like caution, and desired she would not mention my name to
‘ you till I had the pleasure to see you ; and
‘ chose to conceal my niece’s till I saw how
‘ you regarded each other : for though I
‘ had set my heart upon the match, if I
‘ had been ascertained from either of you,
‘ that you had a prior engagement, I would
‘ have done the greatest violence to my
‘ own inclinations, rather than have been
‘ necessary to the violation of such sacred
‘ contracts.’

He

He then informed them that he expected Mr. Samber, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown, to spend the evening with them. 'I have been with my nephew,' continued he, 'and am no less pleased with his conversation than I was with his character.'

Here a servant informing the company that dinner was served up, they withdrew into another room.

C H A P. XV.

Contains Mrs. Simpson's story.

BEFORE the company sat down to table, Mr. Simpson presented Miss Acres to the ladies; and after the usual salutations, the younger ones began to be very well acquainted.

Mr. Godfrey being asked when he last saw Mr. Shooter? reply'd, he parted from him when he came there, that he proposed setting out for the country in a few days, and that Mrs. Minter was to accompany him.

Mr. Simpson repeating the name of Minter, asked if she was a widow, and whether her husband had ever lived abroad? Upon which Mrs. Goodall related her history.

No sooner had she mention'd his voyage to India, than Mr. Simpson declared he was intimately acquainted with him, and
had

had been indebted to his good nature and agreeable conversation, for many happy hours, which he had passed in his company, adding, ‘ I am glad I have it now in my
 ‘ power to return some of the obligations
 ‘ I received from him, to his widow, whom
 ‘ I have heard him frequently mention in
 ‘ the most affectionate manner, and la-
 ‘ ment his forced separation from so va-
 ‘ luable a wife.’

The expected visitors now arrived :; and as soon as the first salutations were over, were informed by Mr. Simpson of the happy eclaircissement that morning had produced, in regard to his son and niece. They unanimously expressed their satisfaction at this intelligence, and congratulated the happy pair. Dr. Wright made particular compliments to Miss Wellers on the occasion.

After the lovers had suitably returned these civilities, Mr. Godfrey again told Mrs. Simpson that he was not a little surprised that she should so long deprive him of the satisfaction the certainty of her
 O 6 being

being alive must have given him. She reply'd, "I have not, my dear Charles, been long in a capacity to afford you that pleasure: the incidents of my life since I left England, are of too melancholy a nature to be circumstantially related: and I hope you will excuse my entering into such a detail as would revive many disagreeable scenes that I have passed through. Yet, in some measure to gratify your obliging curiosity, I will inform you and this good company, that in following your father to England, I was made a captive by pirates, who carried me to Madagascar, where I lived in slavery ten years; though, as it providentially happen'd, I did not experience the utmost rigour of that state; for falling into the hands of a man who had more humanity than is usual amongst those people, he carried me to his wife, who employed me as a teacher to her daughters, and treated me with respect. Yet I longed to quit this place, and endured dreadful agitations in my mind, on being deprived of the hopes of ever again seeing

' seeing you or your father. But at the
 ' expiration of the time I have mentioned,
 ' by the assistance of an English slave, I
 ' escaped; and was by his means con-
 ' ducted to Madras. Where on my ar-
 ' rival I was informed of Mr. Godfrey's
 ' death, and that he had been so unsuccess-
 ' ful in his undertakings, that I had no-
 ' thing left to depend upon but my own
 ' industry in a strange country. Kind
 ' heaven in this distress raised me up a
 ' friend, in the father of that young lady.'
 (pointing to Miss Acres) ' This gentle-
 ' man had been intimately acquainted with
 ' Mr. Godfrey, and kindly offered me a
 ' place of refuge in his house, recom-
 ' mending the education of his daughter
 ' to my care; but he being in an infirm
 ' state of health, I should have been again
 ' left destitute at his death, had not his
 ' intimacy with that worthy gentleman,'
 (directing her eyes to Mr. Simpson)
 ' brought me acquainted with him; he
 ' did me the honour to offer me his hand,
 ' which I gratefully accepted; and have
 ' ever since found reason to thank kind
 ' pro-

‘providence for bringing us together. I
‘would have wrote to you immediately,
‘but Mr. Simpson proposed coming to
‘England soon, and desired I would not
‘imagining it would agreeably surprize you
‘to see me, at a time when you could have
‘no such expectations. This I hope will
‘apologize for my seeming neglect; for
‘be assured, my dear Charles, you have
‘been the constant object of my thoughts
‘and wishes, and my daily and fervent
‘prayers were to see you, as you are no
‘less deserving of the world’s esteem than
‘of that of your parent.’

Mr. Godfrey blushing, thanked his mother for her good opinion of him, modestly imputing it to her kind partiality.

Mr. Simpson thinking these subjects of too interesting a nature for the entertainment of his guests, and fearing a repetition of her misfortunes should affect his lady, turned the discourse to other topicks. He was particularly civil to Mr. Brown, and highly commended him for continuing in business, and for not being ashamed

to

to pursue that way of life, to which this nation is indebted for its opulence. He talked in so judicious a manner, on the benefits arising to England from commerce, and the utility it was of to the whole world, that a person unacquainted with his pedigree would have imagined he had acquired his wealth by that means. But that was not the case, for Mr. Simpson's ancestors possessed a considerable landed estate; but his father marrying a lady whose relations died in India, he, with her and his son, who was then very young, went there to take possession of a large fortune which was bequeathed her; she had a daughter born soon after their settling there, who was the mother of Miss Wellers.

The father of Mr. Simpson liking his situation, would not return, but sold his estate in England, and had the money transmitted to him. In his last sickness, he desired, if he died, his little daughter might be sent to his brother the captain at Plymouth, whom he appointed her guardian, for education. Mr. Simpson never thought
of

of returning to his native country till he married, when he perceived his wife desirous of seeing her son. Mrs. Goodall did not leave this company till she had obtained a promise from them all of spending the next day at her house.

On the ladies return, they found Miss Burton impatiently expecting them. She received them with a smiling countenance, saying, 'I have good news for you, Miss Wellers;' then produced a billet which contained these lines.

• Dear madam,

• **A**S I know your kind anxiety for the
• event of my trial, I just step from
• my mother to inform you no mortal upon
• earth can be happier than she has
• made

Your most faithful

humble servant,

3 o'clock.

CHARLES GODFREY.

Dr. Wright, who accompanied the ladies home, having read the billet, said, 'I have

‘ have been with Mr. Godfrey, and he has
 ‘ behaved like a dutiful son, and consented
 ‘ to accept the lady his mother proposed
 ‘ to him. Miss Wellers has likewise shewn
 ‘ her prudence in permitting him to dis-
 ‘ pose of himself according to the appoint-
 ‘ ment of his parent.

Miss Burton, vastly amazed at this ac-
 count, said, ‘ Were I not well-acquainted
 ‘ with your veracity, Sir, I should this
 ‘ once question it.’

‘ The Doctor has told you the truth,’
 added Mrs. Goodall. ‘ If so,’ reply’d Miss
 Burton, ‘ there is no faith in man. Well!
 ‘ it was monstrous in him to write me such
 ‘ a note!’

She was going on in this way, and con-
 demning the perfidy of Mr. Godfrey with
 great vehemence, when observing Miss
 Wellers smiled, ‘ What can be the mean-
 ‘ ing of all this?’ said she.

‘ I am obliged to you,’ answer’d Miss
 Wellers, ‘ for the perplexity I perceive
 ‘ you

‘ you are in, as I am convinced it is occasioned by your tender regard for my happiness. I must own that what our good friends have told you is fact, as to Mr. Godfrey ; and I have engaged to marry my uncle’s son-in-law.’

Miss Wellers perceiving this speech rather added to Miss Burton’s surprize, could no longer conceal from her all that had passed that day. And it is said the recital kept these young ladies waking till the morning began to dawn, affording them as agreeable amusement as lady Dumiel experienced at the masquerade. Miss Wellers was not so full of her own affairs as to omit the mention of Miss Acres, and the account she gave of her, excited a desire of being acquainted with her, in Miss Burton.

The Doctor, before he retired, could not help raillying his niece on the panic she was in ; though he told her the motive of her concern was very laudable, and said, ‘ I do not wonder, my dear, you should be amazed to hear me talk so lightly of an affair

‘ affair of such consequence, as the separation of persons bound by sacred vows ; but methinks I am concerned you should know me no better, than to imagine I or Mrs. Goodall could ever approve of such a breach.’

She reply’d, ‘ Indeed I did not know what to think of the matter, but however displeased I was with you at first, I now am extremely indebted to you for the most agreeable surprize I could have met with.’

And here I hope the reader will take it as a favour, that the secret was communicated to him before Miss Burton.

CHAP. XVI.

The most agreeable to the author of any one.

ABOUT two hours before Mrs. Goodall expected her company, she received a visit from lady Dumiel, who told her she came to pay her devoirs to her before she set out on her tour. Her ladyship appeared in such high spirits, and so excessively gay, that Mrs. Goodall imagined some very agreeable incident had happened to her; yet fearing it was too too trivial to be so elated with, she thought proper not to be inquisitive about it; and reply'd, 'I am obliged to you for this visit, and hope the tour you mention will afford as much pleasure as you expect.'

'Oh!' answer'd the lady, 'it must give me infinite pleasure! 'tis the thing upon earth I have always wished for.'

'How came you never to take it before?' said her aunt.

'Because

‘ Because I never had an opportunity,’
return’d her ladyship; ‘ and had not obtain-
‘ ed that happiness now, if Sir Andrew’s
‘ physicians had not providentially advis’d
‘ him to go to Aix la Chapelle for his
‘ consumption. This fortunately hap-
‘ pen’d, or I might have pass’d my life
‘ like a vegetable fixt to one spot; but
‘ now I propose visiting France, Italy,
‘ and I know not where. Sir Andrew
‘ would have gone by himself, but I
‘ thought it was quite proper I should
‘ attend him, to receive his company,
‘ and do the honours of his table, for he
‘ will hardly be capable of doing it him-
‘ self; he is so vastly ill.’

‘ Suppose,’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘ his
‘ physicians had order’d him into Russia,
‘ would you have attended him?’

‘ Bless me!’ answer’d the lady, ‘ how
‘ could you, madam, have such an odious
‘ thought! Did ever any mortal go
‘ amongst barbarians for health? you
‘ might as well have suppos’d they would
‘ have

‘ have fix’d us amongst the savages in the
 ‘ country, at his own seat, for a whole
 ‘ winter. No, I am convinced there is no-
 ‘ thing so salutary for the constitution as
 ‘ taking one’s pleasure. For I am always
 ‘ sick to death in a place where there are
 ‘ no amusements going forward; for that
 ‘ reason I never was well a month out of
 ‘ town in my life. But, madam, I must
 ‘ take my leave, as I have fifty visits at
 ‘ least to make to-day. I shall be sure
 ‘ to write to you from most of the stages
 ‘ I take.’

Mrs. Goodall perceiving she had so much
 business upon her hands, could not in
 good manners detain her ladyship, but with
 her wishes for Sir Andrew’s recovery, suf-
 fered her to depart, highly delighted with
 her ideal happiness.

Mr. Burton attended his uncle to Mrs.
 Goodall’s, and his conversation greatly
 added to the pleasure of the company.
 After dinner, when the ladies retired into
 a room apart, he stept up to his sister,
 and asked her if he might be permitted to
 attend

attend the ladies at their tea-table? declaring he never chose, where it could be avoided, such a separation; and highly commended the custom of some places abroad, where gentlemen and ladies promiscuously shared the conversation. She smiled, guessing the motive that occasion'd his question, and reply'd, she could assure him of a welcome reception from some of the ladies, but could not be confident of the approbation he was most desirous of.

In this visit, Mrs. Goodall and Mr. Simpson agreed to set out for the country on the Tuesday following. The intermediate time was spent in preparations for the weddings that were there to be celebrated. The brother of Miss Burton was prodigiously charmed with Miss Acres, and having by his behaviour rendered himself agreeable to her guardian, found it no difficulty to gain access to her.

On the day they all set out, he attended them. Passing through Dunstable, some women came to the inn where they stop'd, offering hats to sale; amongst whom Miss Wellers

Wellers discerned a face she was well acquainted with; and whispering Mrs. Goodall, that lady immediately recollected the features of Brett; upon which these two ladies called her into a room by themselves, and telling her she was no stranger to them, Mrs. Goodall asked how she came to make such an appearance, and what brought her to that place?

Brett, confounded at their presence, fell on her knees and implored their pardon, for the stratagem she had used in order to decoy Miss Wellers into ruin. The ladies would not suffer her to remain in that posture, but desiring her to be seated, repeated their question.

Upon which she said, ‘Oh! ladies, I am an unfortunate woman! and the remembrance of my past conduct imbitters the little satisfaction I should otherwise enjoy in my present way of life. But I hope you will think me deserving your compassion, tho’ I am criminal, when I solemnly assure you, I owe my ruin entirely to the ambition of a parent, and

' not to my own inclinations, which were
 ' always averſe to the ſtate I for a long time
 ' lived in. My bread depended on my
 ' obedience to the commands of the villain
 ' who ruined me, and I was neceſſitated to
 ' aid his vile ſchemes, which tended to the
 ' ruin of this young lady, or be a beg-
 ' gar; for he never truſted me with a penny
 ' after he firſt diſcarded me, but paid my
 ' bills, and I was obliged to deliver all
 ' receipts to him. He promiſed, if he ſuc-
 ' ceeded in his attempt on Miſs Wellers,
 ' to ſettle an annuity of twenty pounds a
 ' year on me: the articles were drawn,
 ' and waited only our return from Hamp-
 ' ton-Court to be ſigned. But when he
 ' found his project diſconcerted, he would
 ' not agree to give me a farthing, but told
 ' me I might apply to the buſineſs he had
 ' taught me, or any other for a liveli-
 ' hood, for I ſhould never more ſee a
 ' penny of his money. In vain did I in-
 ' treat him to allow me but a bare main-
 ' tenance, and aſſured him with truth,
 ' that though my miſguided father had
 ' ſold me to him, I had an averſion to
 ' that way of life, and was fully deter-
 ' mined to ſtarve rather than continue in it.

“ He turned all I said upon this head into
“ mirth; desired I would not pretend to
“ preach to him; and left me at a place in
“ town where we alighted. I wrote to him
“ next day, not desiring to see him, but
“ only to beg him to grant me a sum suf-
“ ficient to carry me to this place, where
“ an aunt of mine lived. He sent me six
“ guineas, but protested they should be the
“ last I should ever receive from him, and
“ bid me never trouble him more. With
“ this money I came here; but my aunt,
“ displeased with my conduct, refused to
“ take me into her house. I knew not
“ which way to turn myself, and was driven
“ to the brink of despair, insomuch that I
“ was more than once tempted to put an
“ end to my being. But, thanks to heaven,
“ who prevented that addition to my crimes,
“ by inspiring me with a thought of learn-
“ ing the trade of this place. With the mo-
“ ney I had left, I hired a room, and apply’d
“ myself to the making of hats, which an-
“ swers so well, that I am enabled to live,
“ and that is as much as I deserve; though
“ were it not for the remembrance of what
“ is pass’d, I should be far happier than
“ ever I was in my former station.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall commended her for her industry, and comforted her with the hopes of pardon, if she continued in her present, and did not relapse into her former, way of life. Each of the ladies presented her with a piece of gold, which she thankfully accepted, and promised to follow their advice.

At Mrs. Goodall's and Miss Wellers's return to their company, they found Mr. Shooter's family added to it. Jack seemed highly delighted with the prospect of the two weddings, and said to Mr. Godfrey, though he was so shy, he always suspected Miss Lucy was his sweetheart. He told Mr. Willit, if he did not make his old love a good husband, he deserved to be foused over head and ears in a horse-pond; for if she had not set her mind upon him, he would had her himself.

Mrs. Wright having had notice of their intentions, was prepared to receive the company: And the second day after their arrival Dr. Wright bestowed the nuptial benediction on the young couples. As they were all fond of music, and practitioners, a concert was performed at Mrs. Goodall's

on the wedding day, in which Dr. Wright bore a part on the violoncello.

The gentlemen and their brides staid a month at Mrs. Goodall's, when Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, with Miss Acres, attended Mrs. Willit to her house. They passed the summer in visiting each other, and returned to town in the winter, when Mr. Simpson and Mr. Godfrey took each of them a house not far from Mrs. Goodall's. Mr. Willit has engaged that his wife should pass some time every year with her friends in town.

Mr. Burton has taken possession of Winifester-hall, and has the promise of considerable preferment very soon. And it is whispered that a treaty of marriage is on foot between him and Miss Acres; which if it takes place, will give additional satisfaction to these harmonious families.

9 MR 53

F I N I S.

